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December 12, 2007

**BECAUSE
I LIVE**

Mini book

Checked with Grammatik

Printed by:

HANDS FOR JESUS

P.O. BOX 18655

MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

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Introduction

In John 14:19, Jesus said, **“because I live, ye shall live also.”** How many Christians understand what Jesus was saying in this verse? It was the same night that Jesus was betrayed, before He was taken, and crucified. Yet, He said, **“Because I live.”**

Jesus was not talking to them about the life He was living at that time in the flesh. Jesus was talking about His Spiritual life, “His eternal life.” What He was saying to those who believed on Him was, **“Because I have eternal life, you shall also have eternal life.”**

You can see the evidence of this in John 10:10,11. Jesus said in John 10:10, **“I am come that they might have life (zoe), and that they might have it more abundantly.”** “Zoe” in the Greek pertains to spiritual life. In John 10:11 Jesus said, **“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life (psuche) for the sheep.”** The Greek word “psuche” pertains to soul life, life in the flesh.

What Jesus was saying to His disciples in John 14:19, when He said, **“because I live, ye shall live also,”** was because I have eternal life, those who believe on Him will have eternal life also.

Jesus was about to give His “soul life” (the life of the flesh), for those who will believe on Him. Then, after He arose again from the dead and became **“the firstborn from the dead,”** that we could also have eternal life in Him. Our eternal life is “in Christ Jesus.”

What is eternal life? What’s the difference between eternal life and natural life? One way of knowing the difference is that natural life operates from our mind, which is a part of our soul. In the Greek it is called “psuche.” In the English it is called “psyche,” meaning “1. The human soul. 2. The intellect. 3. The mind.”

When we were born into this world, we were born “a living soul” (Gen. 2:7, 1 Cor. 15:45). We have a body of flesh and bones, and a spirit within us (given to us by God). We were natural people, operating in the natural realm, from our mind which is a part of our living soul.

What’s interesting about this living soul is that it can operate in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm. That is, it is able to receive information from the five senses, as well as from the intellect (mind, reasoning, thinking, understanding, etc.). These are all natural processes which take place in the living soul of man.

Besides all these natural processes, our living soul (being psychic), is also able to receive information from the (unseen) spiritual realm. There are two different unseen spiritual realms within this universe.

1. There is the demonic spiritual realm, consisting of Satan and his followers.
2. There is the spiritual realm of God, which includes the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and the angels who are working for us.

Being that each individual person is “a living soul,” they are not limited to this world, but will continue to live for all eternity. Some will spend eternity in hell, with the devil and his followers (Rev. 20:14,15). Others, which have been “born again” will spend eternity in heaven with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The difference between these two is summed up in 1 Corinthians 15:22, where it says, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** The word **“die”** in this verse means, they shall leave this earth, and spend eternity in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

The lake of fire is not a good place to spend eternity. Yet, anyone whose name is not written in the book of life, will spend eternity in the lake of fire. It says in Revelation 20:14,15,

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. Therefore, anyone who does not have “eternal life” will spend their eternity in the lake of fire. Only, because their name was not written in **“the book of life.”**

Is your name written in the book of life? You should know (without question) if your name is written in the book of life? No one should take such an important matter lightly. Everyone should be positive (beyond all doubt) that their name is written in the book of life. Multitudes have been deceived throughout the ages, and many are still being deceived today. Unknowingly, they will discover too late, that their name was not written in the book of life. It could have been, and should have been, but they did nothing in their lifetime to be sure it was written in the book of life before they died on this earth.

How can a person know (beyond all doubt) that they have eternal life? Jesus said in John 3:6,7,

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

If a person is not born again of the Spirit, then they do not have eternal life. Only those who are “born again of the Spirit” have eternal life. In John 1:11-13 it tells us how to become born again. It says,

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The new birth doesn't come because of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man. No one else can cause you to become born again. Their will and their prayers will not cause you to become born again. Water baptism will not cause you to become born again. No matter what another person does, they cannot cause you to become born again. It cannot be done by blood, **“nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man...”** It can only be done by God. God is the only One who can cause a person to become born again.

When a person receives Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior, God causes “a new birth” within them (John 1:11,12). God responds to our will when we receive Jesus Christ as LORD and Savior. It is a work of God in our lives when we believe on Jesus Christ.

It's sad that there are many good people in the world, even in Churches today, saying they are Christians, but they are not truly “born again.” They are wonderful people in the natural. They love everyone. They help anyone who needs help. They don't lie, cheat, steal, kill, or anything that a Christian should not do. Yet, they have been deceived, and are not truly “born again.”

Many of these have been told they are born again by someone who claims to be a Pastor of a Church. Many of these have been told that they were born again when they were water baptized as an infant.

If they do not have a witness in their spirit (knowing, beyond all doubt), they have not truly been born again. The Word of God tells us in Romans 8:16, **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”** The Bible also tells us in 1 John 5:10, **“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made**

him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” If we are truly “born again,” we have a witness within ourselves. It’s not something we know in our mind, but it’s a witness in our spirit.

If you are one of those who does not have a witness in your spirit that you are truly born again, you can make sure right now. Simply ask Jesus to become your LORD and Savior. If you ask Him from your heart He will come into your life and you will become “born again of the Spirit” (John 3:6,7).

The Word of God is truth, and God cannot lie. It says, **“as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”** (John 1:12). God knows every thought and hears every word you speak. So do it, and receive eternal life in Christ Jesus!

BECAUSE HE LIVES

To understand what Jesus meant when He said, “**...because I live, ye shall live also**” (John 14:19), we must understand what eternal life is? The best way to explain eternal life is to use the example of earthly life. In earthly life each person has their own life.

Before a person (as a baby) is born into this world, they are connected to their mother with an umbilical cord. Before that cord is cut or broken, their life is dependant upon their mother. From the time their mother becomes pregnant their life (in the flesh begins).

Every person is “a living soul.” When their mother becomes pregnant, their physical body begins to form in their mother’s womb. All during the time they are in their mother’s womb their body is being formed of flesh and bones. They are already a living soul (a living being--a living creature), but their physical body is still being formed of flesh and bones.

All this time, their physical life is dependant upon their mother. Every part of their physical body is formed in their mother’s womb. Thereby, their future life in the flesh is dependant upon their mother.

At the time of birth, they are delivered from their mother’s womb, but still connected to their mother by an umbilical cord. Until that cord is cut or broken, their physical life is still dependant upon their mother. Her physical life in the flesh and their physical life in the flesh are coming from the same source (the mother). Before they come out of their mother’s womb, they cannot live physically without their mother.

Once the umbilical cord is cut or broken, they have their life and their mother has her life. They become two separate physical lives, the mother’s physical life and the child’s physical life. From that point on, the child’s physical life is no longer dependant upon the mother. It is a separate physical life from their mother’s life.

This is what the Bible calls “life in the flesh,” or “born of the flesh.” Jesus said in John 3:6, “**That which is born of the flesh is flesh...**” In this, He is talking about the life that a person is born into this world with. The physical life of a person is dependant upon their “living soul.” The “living soul” is not a part of the physical body, but is in the body “the flesh” and controls the operations of the physical body. The person themselves is not the physical body, neither are they the spirit. They are the living soul, called “psuche” in the Greek.

When Jesus said to His disciples in John 14:19, “**...because I live, ye shall live also,**” He was not talking about the life we live in the flesh. Jesus was talking about “zoe,” the life we live in “the Spirit of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). That is why Jesus also said in John 3:6, “**...that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**” The life we live in the spirit is called “eternal life.” Eternal life means exactly what it says “a life that will never end.”

Let us understand this “eternal life” better by using the example of “life in the flesh.” In the flesh we have our own life, which manifests in our body of flesh and bones, which we received when we were born into this world. Our mother’s life is her life, and our life is our life. But, not so, in eternal life.

In eternal life there is no separation between the life that is in Christ Jesus and the life we live in the Spirit. Our life and His life are the same life, they are One...(1 Cor. 6:17). Not only is our life and Jesus’ life the same life, but the same spiritual life Jesus has is the same spiritual life God the Father has (John 5:26). It’s all “one life,” the same life dwelling in the Father, the Son, and all of

those who are born again of the Spirit and the Word (John 3:6, 1 Peter 1:23).

All throughout the New Testament it is called “eternal life” not “eternal lives.” It is only one life, not lives. There is a major difference between life in the flesh and life in the Spirit. Those who have “eternal life” have the very life of God dwelling in them (Col. 2:9,10). God dwells in them in His fulness. They are complete in God. Colossians 3:3 says, **“and your life is hid with Christ in God.”**

We are joined “One Spirit” with the LORD (1 Cor. 6:17). The very life of God the Father, flows through the Son, and through all who are in Christ. We are branches of the True Vine (which is Jesus Himself) (John 15:1-8). Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. The life that flows through the Vine flows through the branches. It’s the same life that is in the Father, that is in the Son, that is in those who are born again into the family of God.

Jesus said, **“...because I live, ye shall live also”** (John 14:19). This means, as long as we are in Christ, the same life that is in Jesus is in us.

The Incorruptible Seed

In 1 Peter 1:23 it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** This is not the words of men. It is the Word of God. Christians need to understand the Word of God concerning our new birth in Christ.

We can easily understand the **“incorruptible seed,”** by understanding why God called it **“a seed.”** The words **“incorruptible seed,”** are symbolic words. They are words that describe what God is talking about.

A “seed” contains within itself all that it takes to produce another plant exactly the same as the plant that produced the seed. Contained in a seed is a complete new plant, which can grow and mature into another plant exactly the same as the plant that produced that seed. When the plant is mature, it also will produce more seeds, exactly like itself, which will then grow and produce more plants and more seeds.

Therefore, the seed of the new birth is **“the Word of God.”** To understand what is in **“the incorruptible seed,”** we must understand “what is the Word of God?” The Word of God is twofold in nature.

First, the Word of God is God Himself contained in His Word. In John 1:1 it says, **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”** The Word of God and God are one. You cannot separate the Word from God. Being that the Word of God and God are one, he who has the Word of God abiding in him, has God abiding in him. You cannot have the Word of God abiding in you without having God abiding in you. Therefore, John 1:1 is speaking of Jesus, the Son of God, who is also the Word of God (John 1:2, 14).

Secondly, the Word of God is “spirit,” and it produces and sustains eternal life. In John 6:63, Jesus said, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** The Words that Jesus speaks **“are spirit and they are life.”** Jesus is the Word of God, and the Words He speaks “are spirit and they are life” to all who receive them.

John 1:4 says, **“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”** The very life of God was in Jesus. When we receive Jesus into our lives, we receive the “living Word of God” into our spirit and we have eternal life dwelling in our spirit.

Once we are born again of the incorruptible Word of God, we maintain our eternal life by living on the Word of God. Our new life in Christ Jesus matures by living on the Word of God.

In Matthew 4:4, Jesus said, **“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** Man is a three part being. One part is the physical body of man. The physical body does live by “bread,” which means physical food. But, the spiritual part of man **“lives by every Word that proceed out of the mouth of God.”** We live in the new birth by the Word of God--twofold, by God dwelling in us by His Word, and continually being feed the written Word of God (the Words that are spirit and life) (John 6:63).

God’s Word is eternal. God and His Word are One. God’s Word cannot fail to produce that which God sent it to produce. This is something that very few Christians understand. Mainly, because they operate from their mind rather than from their spirit. They believe the words of men, rather than the Word of God.

If Christians abide in Jesus, and His Word abides in them, they cannot lose their eternal life.

This is God's promise to those who are born again. Jesus said in John 15:4, **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”**

The difference between abiding in Jesus, or not abiding in Jesus, is up to the individual, not up to God? We make the choice if we will abide in Jesus or not?

What is Jesus talking about when He says, **“Abide in me”**? Jesus is the Word of God. To abide in Jesus we must abide in the Word of God. Those who do not abide in the Word of God will not have the Word of God flowing through them.

This is all explained symbolically in Revelation 22:1,2, which says,

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

The word “water” in these verses is symbolic of **“the Word of God.”** The Apostle John used the Greek word “hudor” symbolically many times in the Gospel of John and in his Epistles as well as here in Revelation 22:1,2. The Word of God flows from the Throne (the Father), through the Lamb (the Son) into the branches (born again Christians). This same Word of God produces Leaves (outward signs) of the life that is in the Vine, and in the Branches, for the healing of the Nations.

Now look what Jesus said in John 15:6, **“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”** If we do not abide in Jesus (the Word), we can be cast forth, like a branch is cast into a fire and burned.

What happens if we do not abide in Jesus (the Word)? The very life of God that is in the Word stops flowing from our spirit and we become withered (dry-like in a desert), and no fruit or leaves are produced on the branches. The branches die (of starvation) with no life of the Vine flowing through them. When this happens, men gather us up and cast us into the fire (what we say and what we do no longer agrees with the written Word of God). We become gathered among those who have departed from the faith, and teach false doctrines (1 Tim. 4:1).

This is very important to understand. For our names can be taken out of the book of life. Revelation 3:5 says, **“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.”** Revelation 22:19 says, **“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”**

Even though we are born again of **“incorruptible Seed,”** which is the Word of God, and have the very life of God in us (in our spirit) we must overcome the works of the devil. Our eternal life (life in the Spirit), is dependant upon the Word of God and on God's Son, Christ Jesus. We must abide in Him (in His Word).

Departing from the Word is not a good position to be in (cast out, for not abiding in the Word of God). Yet, God is greater than man, and God is greater than the devil. God is not willing that any should perish. God has ways to help us in our lives here on earth. God has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit to help us. The Holy Spirit is our Helper, Teacher, Guide, Comforter, and Leader in

all things pertaining to life and godliness. Therefore, it is important that we do not hinder God from working in our lives by not understanding spiritual things.

Spiritual things are not understood by the natural man. The natural man is that which was born of the flesh, before we were born again of the Spirit and the Word. If we trust in our natural mind to know what is of God, we will easily be deceived. We must learn to listen to our spirit (where God dwells) to know things in the Spirit.

We must not let the teachings of men hinder us in our life here on earth. The Word of God is true, and the Holy Spirit will bear witness with the Word. Jesus said, **“Because I live ye shall live also...”** In 1 John 3:2 it says, **“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

Men who teach things from the Bible without the help of the Holy Spirit get deceived and deceive many who believe what they say. We must get our information from the Holy Spirit within us. We are told in 1 John 2:27, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”** We must abide in the Word of God and the Holy Spirit (which is the anointing within us).

In 1 Corinthians 2:12 it says, **“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”** The Holy Spirit is given to us that we might know the things of God. Then it says in 1 Corinthians 2:14, **“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”** Many have tried to teach from the Bible (what they believe), without first receiving it from the Holy Spirit. Their teachings do not agree with the Word of God, and they become deceived. We must have “revelation of the Word of God, from the Holy Spirit,” otherwise we will only have information according to the natural man. The natural man does not have spiritual discernment of the Word of God.

If we live according to our mind only, we will not have “revelation.” But if we listen to our spirit, the Holy Spirit will give us understanding by “revelation.” Revelation is important, without it we can easily be led astray by other spirits.

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