

His Life!

• TRANSFORMATION

Genesis 1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep; And The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

“Let there be light”

- There was an existential, fundamental and dynamic change. This was a new creation!! Light now shines!! It hadn't before!
- It continues to shine! Not because of a sun, a star, or plasma or electric... Light exists because God spoke it into being!
- The magnitude of this truth, this understanding is foundational to the gospel message. We immediately understand the power and effectiveness of God's Word!
- With that understanding let's read on...

Luke 5

36 ... No one puts a patch from a new garment on an old garment; if he does, he will both tear the new one, and the patch from the new [one] will not match the old [garment].

37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins; if he does, the fresh wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled and the skins will be ruined (destroyed).

38 But new wine must be put into new wineskins.

2 Corinthians 5

17 Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old things [previous moral and spiritual condition] have passed away. Behold, all things are become new.

- For the new, resurrected life of Christ to be in a believer there must be a transformation!
- A transformation from an old, tired wineskin into a new and living vessel. There WILL be an existential, fundamental and dynamic change to that life!

John 3

3 Jesus answered him, truly truly, I assure you most solemnly that unless a person is born again (anew, from above), he cannot ever see (or know, or be acquainted with, and experience) the kingdom of God.

- God speaks light into the darkness of the soul and HIS LIGHT of revelation SHINES!! It is HIS light!
- It is not that there SHOULD be a change... Without doubt or question there WILL be a change!! There WILL be a change or else there is no life!
- There is an existential change! Life where there wasn't life before! Light where there was only darkness! Joy and peace WILL be there in the place where there was only pride and fear.
- There is New Birth, a New Creature, a New Creation!
- Not a new fleshly perfection but a new Spiritual life with a new revelation, a new desire and new appetite!
- We are given the responsibility of receiving this life and the opportunity to respond to it. To receive all that God has given us and to submit to His loving authority. It is a life that will need to be nurtured, protected and cherished and matured.

Romans 12

1 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be you transformed by the [entire] renewal of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

2 Peter 1

5 For this very reason, adding your diligence [to the divine promises], employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

...

10 Because of this, brethren, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure; for if you do this, you will never stumble or fall.

- The flesh as a decaying existence can only and will only produce death. As an old wine skin it will wholeheartedly reject the light of God and just like Cain's offering it will likewise be completely rejected!
- But the Born Again believer, the new creation, has a new life, they have Christ's life within them! And HIS LIFE LIVES!!
- His life produces a natural desire for more of The Lord. This new Spiritual life will cry out to be fed. There will be a very real and very natural hunger and thirst for The Lord. There will be a natural urge/conviction to deny the self and to seek Christ and serve others! There is an inner, Spiritual yearning to transform the man by renewing the mind through knowing God! There is a new life within that man or woman that was not there before!
- This is where the battle is. This is what Paul talks about in Romans 7. We become new Spiritual lives in Christ but we still contend with our old nature, our flesh.
- We seem to have a gospel where to repent is merely to change where you place your efforts. We say stop putting your effort in the world, put your effort over here in the church. It sounds and looks good but is actually still all in the flesh! There must be an end to self-effort! A sacrificial death of ourselves! A transformation from death to life, from darkness to light!

When God says "Let there be light" His light SHINES!! It is HIS life, His Spirit! It is not a better man. It is not an improved flesh! It is the life and Spirit of Jesus Christ indwelling in man! HIS LIFE LIVES!!

• EXPRESSION

Romans 8

9 However, you are not [living] in the flesh [controlled by the sinful nature] but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God lives in you [directing and guiding you]. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him [and is not a child of God].

10 If Christ lives in you, though your [natural] body is dead because of sin, your spirit is alive because of righteousness [which He provides].

11 And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

Galatians 2

20 I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

1 John 5

12 He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.

- **Oswald Chambers:** "But when I am born again of the Spirit of God, I know that Jesus Christ did not come to teach only: He came to make me what He teaches I should be."

- **Oswald Chambers:** "Sanctification is not something Jesus Christ puts into me: it is Himself in me."

- **Oswald Chambers:** "The one marvellous secret of a holy life lies not in imitating Jesus, but in letting the perfections of Jesus manifest themselves in my mortal flesh. Sanctification is "Christ in you," It is His wonderful life that is imparted to me in sanctification, and imparted by faith as a sovereign gift of God's grace... Sanctification is an impartation. not an imitation."

- HIS LIGHT SHINES! HIS LIFE LIVES!

- There will be evidence of His indwelling. It will not and cannot be otherwise!! If there is no evidence, there is no life! HIS LIFE LIVES!!

- His life will express itself through the individual. His life will seek to do His Father's will. His life will keep His word. His life will walk in His ways. His life will seek to emanate His character and person!

John 3

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

- He MUST increase! HIS LIFE must increase in its expression through me! Let it be Christ that is seen. Not the flesh, not the man!

- There MUST be an increase in HIS life, His testimony, His influence, His character, His wisdom, His love, His control of the tongue, His patience, His holiness, His grace... There must be more of Him in and expressed through my life!

- John doesn't say I must look more like Jesus! I must promote Him more... But HE must increase!! Jesus Christ within must increase!

- I MUST decrease. Is there less of me? Am I decreasing? Am I becoming less like me and more like Him? Am I removing the flesh from my life? These qualities are measurable!

- The flesh will always refuse to humble itself and to acknowledge and repent from sin. The flesh may strive to imitate. It may strive to please and earn respect and acceptance... But always as a self-effort. It is only light that can dispel the darkness and it is only with the light of God's revelation and conviction that we can see the flesh for what it is and then deny it!

Colossians 3

5 So kill (deadened & deprive of power) the evil desire lurking in your members [and all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin]: sexual vice, impurity, sensual appetites, unholy desires, and all greed and covetousness, for that is idolatry (the deifying of self and other created things instead of God).

...

8 But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!

9 Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices

10 And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being renewed and remolded in [more perfect] knowledge after the image of Him Who created it.

- There is a putting off and a putting on. Our responsibility is to have hearts of willingness, submission and obedience. It is we who must put off the old man but it is His life and power that will claim the victory for us as we put it on and yield ourselves to Him!

- **There MUST be decreasing of ourselves BEFORE there will be an increase of Christ!!** There is an order! I must decrease IN ORDER that He will increase! We must die with Christ before we can raise with Him in newness of life.

- That is the expression of HIS life. The expression of light is to dispel the darkness!

So what do people see when they look at us? Are they seeing less of you than they saw last month? Do they see more of Jesus in you than they saw last year? Is your life trending towards Jesus? This is a visible and measurable and metric! HIS LIFE LIVES! IT GROWS! HIS LIFE does not stagnate! Are we allowing Him to tenderly and graciously renew our minds and reveal more of Himself? Is He increasing?

• PURIFICATION

Exodus 27

20 You shall command the Israelites to provide you with pure oil of crushed olives for the light, to cause it to burn continually [every night].

21 In the Tent of Meeting [of God with His people], outside the veil which sets apart the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall keep it burning from evening to morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute to be observed on behalf of the Israelites throughout their generations.

“command the children of Israel, that they bring you pure crushed/beaten olive oil for the light, to cause the lamp to burn always”

- The olives must be beaten/bruised to draw out the pure oil with no other external impurities or additives. None of the flesh is there, none of the hardened seed. It was in the Mount of Olives where Christ's will was crushed when He prayed “take this cup from me” but this produced the precious oil that is displayed when He prayed “Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done.” It is this symbolic crushing death to the self-will that will bring forth oil to fuel the light of the testimony.

“In the tabernacle of the congregation without the veil, which is before the testimony”

- The oil was brought from the individual homes to the place of congregational worship. It is only as our self-life is crushed that we can learn to love, serve and prefer others above ourselves. As we are crushed and see how much we've been forgiven we can learn to love much and we can learn to worship The Lord in unity.

- That is where The Lord places His testimony. Not in the individual homes but upon a people united unto Him. This is a great truth to understand. That as much as The Lord loves to commune with us in our prayer closets and quiet times... His desire and goal is for a Beautiful prepared Bride. A Gathering of His people together unto Him! This is the greater glory and this is where the light of His testimony was to be seen.

John 12

24 I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains [just one grain; it never becomes more but lives] by itself alone. But if it dies, it produces many others and yields a rich harvest.

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains [just one grain; it never becomes more but lives] by itself alone.”

- The seed that will not fall and die will remain and it can live... But it will remain alone, fruitless. Consider if Jesus had come but did not fall and die... He would have lived eternally alone without His people.

- The grain that will not die: Vain, fruitless, wasteful, unfulfilled, selfish, existing purely for self - so full of potential, the ability to be fruitful... but alive and alone. The grain is the flesh, the grain is a man/woman.

- Knowledge alone in the grain will accomplish NOTHING!! Knowing His word and knowing Him is not enough!! Knowing Jesus died for your sins may create a seemingly spiritual desire to bear fruit, even stemming from a sense of gratitude, regard and duty to our precious Lord Jesus Christ. But without DEATH there can be no fruit!! This striving will bring only heartache, brokenness and disillusionment.

- We MUST die so that HE/HIS LIFE can live through us!!

Luke 9

23 And He said to them all, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross daily [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me and conforming to My example].

“But if it dies, it produces many others and yields a rich harvest.”

- Consider how wonderfully fruitful this process is. It is not a merely a reproduction of one... but as we read in Mark chapter four “some thirty, some sixty, some an hundred fold”. So do not focus on the death. That is a fleshly/worldly/selfish gaze. But rejoice in the life that is coming. For Consider Him...

- The life source is the same life but multiplied. Christ in one becomes Christ in so many more!! **HIM!! IT IS HIS LIFE!!** Not an improved grain but a brand new life! Jesus Christ in us!

- Unless we are prepared to let go completely of what we are (and what we think we are) and cast off this flesh we will never realise the potential of what Christ desires for us to be. Yes, it can seem illogical, foolish, hateful... But a grain of wheat that remains as it is exists alone and completely unfruitful!

- But when that grain finally chooses to let go, to cast off the flesh, to die... then LIFE TAKES OVER!! A transformation takes place. Understand that the grain is dead!! But life comes and life expresses and grows and matures and produces without any striving or effort from the grain! LIFE LIVES!! The grain has no control and no say in its future. It's dead! But Christ's life will live!

Philippians 2

13 ...it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

Romans 6

3 Are you ignorant of the fact that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

4 We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious [power] of the Father, so we too might [habitually] live and behave in newness of life.

- Major Ian Thomas: The life Jesus lived qualified Him for the death He died. The death He died qualifies us to receive the life that He lived!!

- THE LIFE THAT HE LIVED!

So what about you? What life do you have? Are you a new creation? A new Creature? Born Again of The Spirit of God? Is His life living in and through you? Is His light shining through your conversation and conduct? Has The Lord created a clean heart within you and given you His joy of Salvation? Does it need to be restored? **IT IS HIS LIFE! HIS LIFE LIVES! AND HE MUST INCREASE!**

Psalm 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.