

“LIFE in the LIGHT”

1 John 2:12-14

Intro: **VIDEO:** ***“The Meaning of Life”***

A.W. Tozer Quote:

For a long time I have believed that truth, to be understood, must be lived; that Bible doctrine is wholly ineffective until it has been digested and assimilated by the total life....

We must be willing to obey if we would know the true inner meaning of the teachings of Christ and the apostles. I believe this view prevailed in every revival that ever came to the church during her long history. Indeed a revived church may be distinguished from a dead one by the attitude of its members toward the truth. The dead church holds to the shell of truth without surrendering the will to it, while the church that wills to do God's will is immediately blessed with a visitation of spiritual powers.

*Theological facts are like the altar of Elijah on Carmel before the fire came... correct, properly laid out, but altogether cold. When the heart makes the ultimate surrender, the fire falls and true facts are transmuted into spiritual truth that transforms, enlightens, sanctifies. The church or the individual that is Bible taught without being Spirit taught (and there are many of them) has simply failed to see that truth lies deeper than the theological statement of it. – **A.W. Tozer***

T/S: Praise God... today we look at the diversity of do-ers... The blessed dichotomy of discipleship within the family of faith – Amen!

REVIEW: Exegetical flow...

- a. 1:1-2 = Known TRUTH! Jesus is the eternal Light
- b. 1:3-4 = LOVE... joyous “koinonia,” vertically & horizontally
- c. 1:5,7,9 = Proclaiming the “how to” of the good news
- d. 1:6,8,10 = Warnings declared to the sin-denying liars
- e. 2:1-2 = Don’t sin... Don’t worry & Don’t forget
- f. 2:3-6 = Beware the Liars & the “talkers”
- g. 2:7-11 = Liars “talk” love... Lovers walk love!

Today:

1 John 2:12-14 = *I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name’s sake. 13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I have written to you, children, because you know the Father. 14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who has been from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

Writing to...

Reasons why... (“because...”)

“little children”

- 1). *“your sins have been forgiven... (for His name’s sake)”*
 - 2). *“you know the Father...”*
- Focus = **“Forgiven”**

KEY: Every child of God is a “mustard seed” of potential!

NOTE: only 2 families of children...

God’s...

Satan’s... John 8:39-44

Colossians 2:10 = you are “COMPLETE” in Him (LOVER)
(**“ALL are... AND... none but!”**) - JDP

“fathers”

- 1). *“you know Him who has been from the beginning”*
 - 2). *“you know Him who has been from the beginning”*
- Focus = **“Forever”**

“young men”

- 1). *“you have overcome the evil one”*
 - 2a). *“you are strong”*
 - 2b). *“the Word of God abides in you”*
 - 2c). *“you have overcome the evil one”*
- Focus = **“Fight”**

Parallelism points out importance! - JDP

KEY: we are to “spur one another on...”

VIDEO:

“Real Church Growth”

L I F E



True Christianity measures true spiritual growth by “fit & faithfulness” to God’s will & Word. - JDP

i.e. Griffin talks at 14 & 18... vs. “forced China”

Finding your divine “fit” *IS* finding your destiny. - JDP

Parable of the Soils...

- First 3 soils show false converts...
- The 4th “good soil” has 3 different levels of output:

Ephesians 4:11-12 = its my job to help you grow!

Growth is measured in faithful obedience... nothing else! - JDP

Consider the "Christian Continuum"

NOTE: there are **(3) opinions** involved...

1). Your own; 2). "Others" 3). The Lord's

***** Only ONE really matters *****

Side-bar:

When it comes to "other's" – a wise and wonderful friend once told me: "Jeff, if what they are saying does not align with the Word of God (in FULL context), and/or it does NOT come from a truly loving heart, DON'T let it in..."

Lost **0-1** **Christ-less Casualty**
"Ignore"

Lover – Learner **1-4** **Christian Children**
"Sure"
"Die to ME"

Learner – Leader **5-7** **Christian Catalysts**
"More"
"Make the best of the MESS"

Leader – Lifer **8-9** **Christian Champions**
"Mature"
"Their LIFE is ALL about their MESSIAH!"

VIDEO: *“LIFE Cycle”*

Stages of life:

- Romans 3:23 & 6:23
- Ps. 139:13 = For **you** created my inmost being; **you** knitted me together in my **mother's womb**.
- Jer. 1:5 = Before I formed you in the **womb I knew you**, before you were born I set you apart...”
- John 3... “you must be born again...”
- 1 Peter 5:8 & 2 Cor. 4:4... “Satan is prowling/blinding”
- Luke 24:45-48... He opens minds... (eyes & hearts!) = *Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,*
- Philippians 1:6 = *...I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue His work until it is finished...*

Sermon on the Mount

Mourning.....	Flippant	Matthew 5:4
Meekness.....	Pompous	Matthew 5:5
Righteousness.....	Worldly	Matthew 5:6
Merciful.....	Callous	Matthew 5:7
Purity of Heart.....	Manipulative	Matthew 5:8
Peace-Making.....	Instigator	Matthew 5:9
Persecuted.....	Hiding	Matthew 5:10
Salt.....	Bland	Matthew 5:13
Light.....	Dim/Dark	Matthew 5:14

Birth of the Church = They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as anyone might have need. Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Devoting.....	Distracted	Acts 2:42
Learning.....	Ignorant	Acts 2:42
Fellowship/"Koinonia".....	Disconnected	Acts 2:42
Prayer.....	Out of Touch	Acts 2:42
Experiencing.....	Evaluating	Acts 2:43
Community.....	Independent	Acts 2:44
Selfless-Sharing.....	Selfishness	Acts 2:45
Consistency.....	Inconsistency	Acts 2:46
Authenticity.....	Superficial	Acts 2:47
Praising God.....	Grumbling	Acts 2:47
Influential.....	Ignored	Acts 2:47
Finding.....	Forgetting	Acts 2:47
Discipleship.....	Drifting	Acts 2:42-47

Biblical Love

Loving Patience.....	Impatient	1 Corinthians 13:4
Loving Kindness.....	Unkind	1 Corinthians 13:4
Loving Confidence.....	Jealousy	1 Corinthians 13:4
Loving Humility.....	Arrogance	1 Corinthians 13:4
Loving Respect.....	Rudeness	1 Corinthians 13:5
Loving Selflessness.....	Self-Seeking	1 Corinthians 13:5

Loving Long-Suffering.....	Easily-Angered	1 Corinthians 13:5
Loving Forgiveness.....	Grudge-Holding	1 Corinthians 13:5
Loving Righteousness.....	Shady	1 Corinthians 13:6
Loving Joy-with-Truth.....	Loving the lie	1 Corinthians 13:6
Loving Protection.....	Self-Preservation	1 Corinthians 13:7
Loving Trust.....	Skeptic	1 Corinthians 13:7
Loving Hope.....	Pessimist	1 Corinthians 13:7
Loving Perseverance.....	Quitter	1 Corinthians 13:7
Loving Completeness.....	Failure	1 Corinthians 13:8

Fruit of the Spirit = *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...*

Spirit-filled Love.....	Imitation love	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Joy.....	Circumstantial joy	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Peace.....	Fleeting peace	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Patience.....	Periodic patience	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Kindness.....	Calculated	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Goodness.....	Evil	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Faithfulness.....	Sinfulness	Galatians 5:22
Spirit-filled Gentleness.....	Mean-spirited	Galatians 5:23
Spirit-filled Self-Control.....	Slave to Sin	Galatians 5:23

The Full Armor of God

Strong-in-the-Lord.....	Spiritually Anemic	Ephesians 6:10
Armor-Wearing.....	Ill-Equipped	Ephesians 6:11
Standing Firm.....	Stumbling	Ephesians 6:11
Vigorously Fighting the Devil.....	Passive P.O.W.	Ephesians 6:12
Overcoming.....	Overwhelmed	Ephesians 6:13
Girded-in-Truth.....	Easily Deceived	Ephesians 6:14

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed! -
Galatians 1:6-9

Heart-Protected-by-Righteousness.....	Flirt with Sin	Ephesians 6:14
Prepared-in-Peace.....	Unsettled	Ephesians 6:15

Shielded by Faith.....	Self-Reliant	Ephesians 6:16
Arrow Extinguishing.....	Set ablaze	Ephesians 6:16
Eternal Assurance.....	Waffling	Ephesians 6:17
Sword-Wielding	Biblically Illiterate	Ephesians 6:17
Prayer Warrior.....	Costume Wearer	Ephesians 6:18
Be on alert.....	No-Big-Deal	Ephesians 6:18
Persevere.....	Compromise	Ephesians 6:18
Boldly Witness.....	Water-down	Ephesians 6:19

Other Scriptures

He is my Treasure..... Modern Idolatry Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Commit to Christ..... Contemplation Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

Rejoicing in the Lord..... Jesus “plus” Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Abiding in Him..... My Way John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Scriptural Authority..... Self-Ruling 2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...

Die to Self.....Live to Sin Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Radical Transformation.....Surface Clean-up 2 Corinthians 5:17

if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Obedience.....Disobedience John 3:36

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Holiness.....Worldly 1 Peter 1:15

like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior...

Serve.....Served Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Example.....Excuse 2 Peter 1:3

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness

Zeal.....Luke-Warm Titus 2:14

He gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

Going.....Sitting Acts 1:8

you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (regionally), and even to the remotest part of the earth (globally)."

Discipling.....Deceiving Matthew 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...

Biblical Unity/"Koinonia".....Dividers Ephesians 4:3

Zealously protect the unity of the Spirit...

Courage.....Coward Isaiah 35:4

Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but He will save you."

Warriors.....Worriers 1 Samuel 17:48
(a.k.a. Living on OFFENSE vs. DEFENSE)

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.

Relationship.....Religion John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the Truth And the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Cross-Carrying.....Cross-Denying Luke 14:27

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Christ-likeness.....Playing Church 1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

Sheep.....Wolves Matthew 10:16

I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as a serpent and as Innocent as a dove.

Calling Out.....Wolf-Watching Titus 1:11

They (false teachers) must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households...

Lovers.....Liars 1 John 3:18

Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.

Family.....Fakes 1 Corinthians 5:9-13

*I have written you in my letter not to associate with immoral people—not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. But now I am writing you that **you must not associate with anyone who calls himself a brother but is immoral or greedy, an idolater or a slanderer, a drunkard or a swindler.** With such a man do not even eat. What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? God will judge those outside. **"Expel the wicked man from among you."***

(Wives) Submit & Respect.....Control & Complain Ephesians 5:24

Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

(Husbands) Lead, Love & Lay Down Lives..... Relational Laziness Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

(Children) Obey..... Reject Authority Ephesians 6:1

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"

Freedom..... Bondage John 8:32 & 36

you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free... and He who the Son sets free is free indeed"

Unpopular (Hated)..... Popular/Accepted John 15:18

If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.

God-Honoring..... Selfish Ambition James 3:16

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Christianity..... Consumerism 2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.

BE-ing (Mary).....Busy (Martha) Luke 10-11

Fleeing Sin.....Fickle with Sin 1 Corinthians 6:18

Flee immorality...

Forsaking All.....Holding-Back Acts 5

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge...

Tested.....Troubled Isaiah 48:10

"Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Biblical Context.....Rationalization 2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman... accurately handling the word of truth.

Slave.....Master Romans 1:1

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God...

Victory.....Defeated 1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Helper.....Yelper Jude 23

save others, snatching them out of the fire...

Trust..... Doubt

Jeremiah 17:7

***Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD
And whose trust is the LORD.***

Repentance..... Status Quo

Revelation 3:19

***Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;
therefore be zealous and repent.***

T/S: With all that said: BEWARE the FALLICIES...

FALLICIES of the FAITH: (re: “spiritual growth” / sanctification)

1. **Time**
2. **Knowledge**

MacArthur: “Spiritual growth is unrelated to the amount of theological information believers know. Some Christians have an adequate or even exceptional amount of biblical and theological knowledge, and yet are shockingly immature spiritually. That is a dangerous position to be in, because the more biblical information one receives but does not apply, the more deceived he becomes about his own spiritual condition (Romans 2:17-29 & Hebrews 5:12-14). The same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay... Constant disobedience produces indifference and a subdued conscience, stunting spiritual growth.”

3. **Works**

4. **Success / Prosperity:**

MacArthur: “Spiritual growth has nothing to do with outwardly successful ministry activity. Some of the busiest people in the church are unskilled in the truth and immature in the wisdom that comes from above (James 3:17-18) ... Great temporal success, a high level of influence, heading a large organization, or generating much financial support is not an indicator of genuine spiritual maturity. In fact, sometimes the opposite is true. For Paul, weakness, suffering, persecution, and poverty were the true signs of maturity in the Lord. (2 Cor. 6:3-10; 11:23-33; 12:9-10; Phil. 4:11-13; cf. 1 Tim. 6:6-10)

5. **Event vs Journey:**

“Spiritual growth is NOT a mountain top experience, it IS an on-going journey of eclectic twists & turns... on a very narrow path that is ultimately heaven bound.” -JDP

Jesus:

- A. Matthew 28:18-20... “make D’s... teach to obey everything...”
- B. Acts 1:8... “BE-ing” His witnesses
- C. Matthew 22:37-40... Love God with ALL... love neighbors...
- D. “Love one another...they will know that you are My disciples”

Spiritual growth is the spiritual fruit that is born of taking in God’s truth, believing it, BE-ing it, and applying it...
in love.

(John 5:24, 39; 6:63; 8:31-32; Acts 17:11; Romans 15:4;
1 Thess. 2:13; 4:1-2; 1 Tim. 4:5-6; James 1:22-25)

Let’s Pray!