

Introduction:

- Arthur Pienaar did such a great job of speaking about the identity of the believer...from the book: The Gospel of Identity.
- The whole purpose is equip the believer to know who he actually is and to live the God kind of life in this world.
- So many Christians fail to become all that God has called them to be simply because they settle for 'fire insurance' instead of a God filled life.
- When Mary said, "Let it be unto me according to your word." Faith was accessing the impossible as she accepted who she was...the mother of Jesus!
- God can do so much more through a believer who knows who they are in Christ. Their identity gives them confidence. It makes a difference who you are and whose you are.

I. This Is The Life

- A. IE. I can think of numerous vacations in which we have done enjoyable things. Sitting on the deck of a house with a hot cup of coffee watching the leaves change on the mountains across the valley. Sitting on a beach with someone you really love watching the sun go down. Hiking up a rugged path to view a waterfall that few venture out to see. One of the greatest things about a good vacation is being at rest, feeling alive, and enjoying life. That is where the phrase, "This is the life!" gets spoken the most. The world has a way of wringing life out of us but God has a way of recharging us when we get in His presence and by faith drink Him in. Jesus is known as the LIFE!
- B. Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life. Jn 14:6
 1. Jesus is life itself. Zoé - vitality. You have that vitality/Zoé right now if you are born again. It is in you! It is at work in you! And it is working through you to give others life!
 2. And when a person is born again they receive the life/Zoé of God. What was dead, a product of sin at work in us, is suddenly rendered powerless and that man becomes a new creation.
 3. We can't ever get so familiar with Life that it becomes an old message and we want new revelation. We have God LIFE on our insides! That should keep us staring like a room full of newborns who are quietly sleeping.
- C. The Life is in the Word
 1. *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life."* (John 6:63, ESV)
 2. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* (John 1:1, ESV) *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:4, ESV)
 - a) John begins his Gospel with the very fact the Jesus is the Word! He is the last

and final grand communication from God. Heb. 1:1 He is the complete expression of God and there will never be need to doubt who God is ever again! Jesus has perfectly expressed and reveal the Father to us.

- D. Jesus is the perfect picture of man 'full of God' 'led by God' 'and enjoying God.' God was no longer hidden

II. God Wants Us Filled With His Life

- A. If Jesus is the life and we are in Him and He in us then we must be, as Mike Petzer says, *"We must be God-in-side-us minded."*¹
1. We have to use our will to submit our thinking to our spirit.
 2. We have the life of Jesus in us! We must now let Him/Jesus live through us. To many are content to be alive in Christ and fail to let Jesus live through them...to let Jesus do the stuff through us.
 3. We are called to yield to His life flowing through us. *"I no longer live but Christ lives in me, and the life I do live, I live by faith in the Son of God..."*
 4. *"Jesus came and gave His life for us, so He could give His life to us, so He could live His life through us."*²
- B. Those who are born again, born from above, (born from that which is first) truly have LIFE, the very nature of God in them. *"In him was life, and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:4, ESV)
1. Darkness has never overcome the light! What darkness stands before you? WE HAVE BEEN MADE LIGHT! *"for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light"* (Ephesians 5:8, ESV)
 2. *"God calls us to live like Christ because Christ will live just like Himself in us."* Michael Petzer.
- C. This treasure...LIFE...is in us! *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."* (2 Corinthians 4:7, ESV) This treasure is grace! God's ability to reproduce Himself in us who believe.
1. Whoever has the Son has life!
 2. And Peter said, *"All who are without him are without life."* 2 Peter 1:4

III. Believe Man of God, Believe!

- A. We know we have life by believing not having believed. Believing - present tense with on going activity.
1. Col 1:23 *"if indeed you continue in the faith."*
 2. Ro 11:17 *"if you continue in His kindness."*

¹ The Gospel of Identity; Mike Petzer; p 62

² Ibid p. 62

3. Heb 3:6 *"if you hold fast your confidence and hope."*
 4. Heb 3:14 *"if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance."*
 5. 1 John 2:24 *"if what you heard from the beginning abides in you."*
- B. Our faith is so crucial to our identity in Christ. The same faith that got you saved is the same faith that establishes your new identity in Christ.
1. Listen to me: sin keeps a man focused on himself and preoccupied with performance. That mentality will only lead you into guilt with more defeat. Faith fixes our attention upon what God has done within us, and this produces the confidence in us...so that we can accurately live what we possess within!
 2. God said it this way to Joshua: *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."* (Joshua 1:8, ESV)
 - a) Note: you will make.
 - b) Note: you will have.
 3. Keeping the promise of God in our mouths no matter how we feel is what Biblical meditation is all about. "Victory lies not in telling God about our sin but in telling our sin about our God!"³

Conclusion:

- Intimacy - stay close to God.
- Revelation - in intimacy or being close to God we learn His ways.
- Obedience - obey or walk in what He has revealed in order to see the fruit.
- Our identity is tied to what we know about God plus the faith to believe and act on it.

³ The Gospel of Identity; Mike Petzer p. 68