



LIGHT OF THE
WORD

July 2010

Dear Friend of Light of the Word,

“I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me.”
(Galatians 2:20)

Do you need to get another life?

People work hard day in and day out. They take care of their families; they pay their taxes; they volunteer in their communities; they try to make time for entertainment, but at the end of the day, they feel empty. Many have told them to “get a life,” but it hasn’t worked. They still come up empty. Instead of getting a life, what we truly need is to get another life . . . a life that is no longer about us, but about Jesus Christ.

We need to come to the end of ourselves and find that there is a better life—a life filled with peace, hope, joy, and love—a life filled with the Son of God.

When we die to self and live for Christ, we truly find life. As believers, we are no longer living for ourselves but for God. Our new life in Christ is not an improved version of our old self. Instead, it’s a brand new self—filled with God’s thoughts, God’s desires, God’s actions, and God’s will. There is no greater life that one can live than the new life of Christ dwelling in us. Though we are in the world, we are not of the world. We belong to Jesus Christ, and it is His Spirit that guides us and rules over us—not the world.

So why do Christians struggle? Christians struggle because far too often we do not die to self. We try to live the Christian life in our strength rather than God’s. We try to reform our sinful life instead of dying to our sinful self by way of the cross. People try to avoid the cross. But the moment we die to our sinful lives, we actually begin to live.

Listen: you cannot enjoy the abundant life if you refuse to die to self. It is by this death that we are given new life. We need to come to God by way of the cross. You cannot walk in the Spirit and walk in the flesh at the same time. It just won’t work. You cannot balance living in the world and living in Christ. The only way you can receive another life is by dying to the old one!

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What does the crucified life look like?

- ***It is a life of humility***

Our pride must be broken. The cross brings us humility. Humility heals our relationships with others.

- ***It is a life of helplessness***

We need to rely on God and not ourselves. When we become helpless before God, we gain His help and strength.

- ***It is a life of rest***

When we die to self and live for Christ, we find rest from our fretting and worrying. Because we know that God is in control and taking care of us, we can rest in Him no matter what our circumstances or trials.

Have you died to self? I encourage you to find another life in Christ.

In Christ,



Pastor Steve