

# DEAD OR ALIVE

*By: Phillip Hayes*

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believeest thou this? [St. John 11:25-26]

I was driving along a country road in Alabama in the summer of 1977. I was looking out the window appreciating the country side of this great state. As I looked about, I saw some cattle grazing in a field. They seemed so lifeless; some slowly eating, some sleeping, some just standing there vacantly staring at their surroundings. As I was looking at them, God spoke to me and said, "That is the way man appears to me, what you are seeing is what I am seeing in man, they have no life; they eat, they drink, but then they go to the dust of the earth for in Adam all died."

God began to give me a revelation of lost mankind, how vitally important and great the message of Jesus Christ really is. We are living in a world filled with men and women that think they have life, but yet they are dead! They have no life, they have nothing but this present mortal existence; eating, drinking, they have no real joy, and are without any hope outside Christ. Without Jesus, they are the same as the cattle of the field.

*"In the beginning God breathed into the nostrils of Adam, and he became a living soul."* (See Genesis 2:7). Jesus, after He rose from the dead, having all power in heaven and earth, glorified and exalted, stood before the disciples, *breathed* on them and said, *"Receive ye the Holy Ghost."* (See St. John 20:22). Since the Holy Ghost would not come until Pentecost, what was He demonstrating by doing this?

He was restoring the life of God back to mankind! Jesus said that He had come to seek and save that WHICH WAS LOST! God had given Adam the breath of life. God is life; therefore the Holy Ghost is the life of God! What was lost in the beginning? Adam lost the life of God for all mankind. Jesus restored life back to man.

When God began to show me things like that, it began to illuminate me and the compassion and desire in me became stronger, because now I could clearly see God's plan for lost mankind. Now I know that Jesus was the only man that had life! In Him was life and the life was the light of the world. In St. John 6:49 Jesus said, *"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead."* They didn't have life! In verse 51 Jesus said, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: . . . ."* Jesus is the way, the truth and THE LIFE! He was the only man that had life until the Holy Ghost (*which is the very life of God*) was given to mankind.

On the Day of Pentecost Jesus sent the life of God to about 120, from those 120, 3000 received the BREATH OF LIFE, and later another 5000. History tells us when they were scattered into all the world they went to Ethiopia, and into what is known as Europe today. They went into all the world preaching Life. Let me show you something here, in St. John chapter one:

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" [St. John 1:1-5].*

The book of Genesis records how God divided the darkness from the light. He said let there be light and there was light. This is the creative power of God, which was in Christ, from the beginning. *"In Him was life and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness."* For the

first time in four thousand years, life once again shined into the world.

What do you see when you look up into heaven in the day? You see the light, you see the sun, and our natural sun gives the world light, you see the light of the world reflected in that which is natural.

Spiritually speaking, Jesus is the light of the world. Even though we might see the natural sun in the heavens and the day seems bright, actually the world is in darkness without the Son of God! Listen to this:

*"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. 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" [St. John 1:5-13].* Sons of God! Born of God!

Jesus is a Life Giving Spirit! The Bible says Adam was of the earth, earthly; but the second Adam was the Lord from heaven that was made a quickening Spirit. Quickening means life giving. Jesus brought life, and He commissioned His church to also bring life!

I am going to live forever! Even though you might kill this body, I will live on forever. I am born again to NEVER DIE! I'm alive because Jesus is alive and I am a part of Him. One spirit with Him! Flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bone.

Some teach that when we die we are not aware of anything and will only be awakened at the resurrection. This doctrine is called "Soul Sleep". I have eternal life

abiding in me! My Lord is not dead, neither is His soul sleeping in some tomb somewhere. Jesus sits on the right hand of God and I am eternally joined to Him!

Paul told the church of his day that it would be BETTER for him to go and BE WITH THE LORD! How could it be better if he was not even aware that he was with Jesus?! I believe when a Christian dies, his flesh goes back to dust but his/her Spirit goes to be with Jesus. The Old Testament tells us "the dead know not anything". But my friend, that's the dead, I am not dead! I've got the life of Jesus in my spirit, how can I die? In the book of Revelation, John began to worship the angel that had given him the revelation but the angel said, *"See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets"* (See Revelation 19:10 and 22:9).

This "angel" was one of the old prophets! He was alive! He wasn't dead nor was he asleep . . . He was alive! The souls under the alter, *"Cried out . . . How much longer O Lord will thou not avenge us . . ."*, they were not sleeping! Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus on the mount of transfiguration . . . They were not dead! Jesus told the Sadducees, "You do greatly err not knowing the scripture neither the POWER OF GOD . . . God said, *"I am the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob . . . He is God of the living and not God of the dead."* (See Mark 12:27; Matthew 22:32; Luke 20:38).

A Christian passes from this life to the next life, like going through a door. Glory to God! I will still be alive, for God has given us the victory over death, hell and the grave. Folks can believe what they want to believe, but I am not going to have anything to do with death. I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. This new creature (that I am) has passed from death to life! (See St. John 5:24 and 1John 3:14).

When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night, he didn't ask a single question. He said, *"We know you are a teacher sent from God, no one could do these works except God be*

*with him.*" Jesus responded, *"You must be born again."* I guess Nicodemus must have looked at him and might have thought, "Well sir, I did not ask any questions, what are you talking about?" Jesus said, *"You must be born again."* Nicodemus said, *"How can a man be born again, must he enter back into his mothers womb a second time?"* Jesus told him, *"If a man is not born again of the water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."* Why did Jesus say this! Why does a man have to be born again? This message is revealing the reason, and that reason is because they have no life. They must be resurrected! Humans are creatures of time! Because of the fall of Adam they have a limited existence. But, when we are born again we became new creatures of eternity. He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit with the Lord. If my spirit is one with the Lord's Spirit, and we believe He is alive, then I am alive.

You must be born again. There is a transformation that must come into your life. Without Christ you have no hope of glory. Without the Holy Ghost in you, you have no life. You must be born again. That is what Jesus was teaching the people. I have come to give you life.

He came unto His own, but they didn't receive Him. The darkness couldn't comprehend His message. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.

Jesus said these glorious Words in St. John chapter six: *"I am that bread of life."* *"This is the bread which came down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die."* Again, *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever."*

My friend, when you eat this Bread of Life, you will never die! Glory! Jesus said, *"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life . . ."* Jesus was restoring life. He was reconciling man back to God.

John said, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of a few?" Or was it, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the church? Perhaps it was to take

away the sin of the Jew, or the Elect? No, no, John said, *"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."* Notice it wasn't sins, but the sin of the world. What was the sin of the world? What sin condemned the whole world? Think about it! One sin brought death to every man and woman that would ever be born. That original sin was the sin Adam committed! He didn't believe God! The sin of the world is the sin of unbelief and Jesus came to take it away.

When the Spirit of life comes in you, then "you become a life giving spirit." He that is joined unto the Lord is become one with the Lord. That life giving Spirit in you enables you to share life with others through your witness of the resurrected life you now live in Christ. Now you can begin to impart life.

Let me show you a strange statement found in St. John 11:23. Look what Jesus said; *"Jesus saith unto her"* (now this is Martha he is talking to, and you know the story of Lazarus, how that Lazarus had died) *"Jesus saith unto her thy brother shall rise again"*. Verse 24, *"And Martha said unto him I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day"*.

But look what Jesus told her in verses 25 and 26: *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"*

Jesus brought life, eternal life back to mankind. He is the resurrection. I have been resurrected! I have been born again! Thank you Jesus!

Few realize what water baptism demonstrates. We're buried with Him in baptism, we're raised with Him in newness of life. That is signifying your death, burial and resurrection of the inward man, thank you Jesus, we've been resurrected. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in*

*newness of life."* [Romans 6:4]. There is your death, burial, and resurrection of your inward man. *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses"* [Colossians 2:12-13]. Notice, we are risen with Him. We are dead in our sins. We are quickened (made alive) together with Him!

Jesus made these powerful statements, *"Before Abraham was I am . . . . if you don't believe I am he you will die in your sins . . . .I am the resurrection . . . I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man can come unto the Father but by me."* Why? Because in Him was The Life.

The Godhead is not confusing. Christ Jesus is the only ordained place of worship. He is the only place that God will meet mankind. Jesus is not in the Godhead, the Godhead is in Jesus and if you want to know and worship God, you must come to Jesus. *"In him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in him"* (Colossians 2:9,10).

Thank you Jesus! I am talking about the message that Jesus brought. One of the disciples asked Him, *"Lord, you want us to call fire down from heaven and destroy them?"* Jesus answered, *"You don't know what spirit you're of. The Son of Man came not to destroy mens lives but to save mens lives."* He came to restore life back to a lost and dying world.

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life* [St. John 5:24].

Do you believe you have passed from death to life simply because you believe? Do you believe you will not be condemned? I always get upset when someone that professes to be a Christian tells me they're not saved. If you believe in this Jesus I am talking about, YOU CAN BE SAVED

## THIS VERY MOMENT!

Through your faith, you're saved by grace, not by works lest any man should boast. You are saved by believing the Word of God and because you're saved, the Grace that has saved you teaches you to deny ungodliness. The problem with a lot of folks today is they are trying to save themselves.

I have said before, if you can save yourself, you don't need a Savior, you don't need Jesus! If you can keep yourself from sin, then you don't need the restraining power of the Holy Ghost in your life. If you know what to do, you don't need a Lord to direct you. I need a Savior. I can't save myself. Some are trying to serve Jesus under the Old Covenant which could never bring life. Some are trying to make it in by church rules; if you do this, and if you do that, you can't do this, and you can't do that.

The bible clearly teaches, "THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE!" Eternal life cannot be earned. It is a gift! Jesus accepts you when you say "Lord, I am a sinner, I don't know what to do. Lord, I have sinned against you, I have transgressed your laws, save me, I repent of my sins. You must reach out to a God that can and will save you, instead of trying to save yourself. If you could save yourself there would have been no need for Jesus to have come. He is the Savior of mankind! God is able to KEEP YOU FROM FALLING! You must depend on Him and not on your own ability. Believe me, you will fail God because the flesh is weak, but if you will simply trust Jesus to keep you from falling, He will do it! This is the difference between believers and unbelievers. You must believe with all your heart that God is able to keep and sustain you.

*"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life" [St. John 6:47].*

I have (present tense) everlasting life. BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN JESUS! How many of you have everlasting life? You can never get worthy enough to get eternal life. It is a gift from God! Jesus died for all! It is NOT God's will that



any should perish but that all might have eternal life!  
(2Peter 3:9) Praise the Lord!

Jesus said, *"This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" [Matthew 24:14]*. What is this Gospel of the Kingdom? It is the Gospel of Life. The word Gospel means "Good News." The good news that Jesus brought is: you don't have to die, you don't have to sin, you don't have to live in ungodliness, you don't have to be bound by the devil, you can be set free, you can be delivered through the Gospel of the Kingdom of Life. You may be bound by drugs, alcohol, tobacco, but God will deliver you. He is a life giving Spirit, He is a deliverer. When you give your life to God, He has a way of destroying that outward man and the lusts thereof.

I don't understand why anyone would oppose this kind of teaching, but they do. They will quote, "He that endureth to the end the same shall be saved". "You've got to endure before you're saved," they will say. Well, what if you're end came tonight, would you be saved? Anyway Jesus wasn't referring to salvation in general when He made that statement. He was talking about the time of the end when there would be no flesh saved alive if God did not shorten the days. Let me ask you again, if your end came tonight would you be saved?

If you believe this Word, you can have full assurance of eternal life! You can know you are saved right now!

Confess it with your mouth! Life and death is in the power of the tongue! For by your own words you will either condemn yourself or justify yourself! Your faith must be based on the Word of God. That Word cannot lie, the Word cannot fail.

*"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath*

*brought life and immortality to light through the gospel” [2Timothy 1:9-10].*

Jesus has abolished death to the believer! There is no such thing as death to a believer in Jesus Christ. If the word of God said Jesus abolished it, I don't care what anybody says He has abolished death and given us immortality. People are searching for a fountain of youth, they want to live forever, they're trying to figure it out in medicine, but all they need to know is this Jesus. All they need to know is this Savior. My God has abolished death and has given us immortality. I've got it! Thank God! How many of you that are reading this message will confess with me right now, “. . . I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE”! Thank you Jesus, I AM SAVED!

There is a tremendous record that God has given concerning His Son Jesus. Four of the most powerful verses in all the Bible describe this record. *“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. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” [1John 5:10-13]*

The RECORD is that God has already given us eternal life. It is in His Son. If you have the Son, you have the Father. If you have the Father, you have eternal life. This is what God wants you to know! *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” [Romans 6:23].*

He gave us the gift of eternal life because He loved us. Not because we loved Him! *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” [St. John 3:16]* **For God so loved you!**