

LIFE

55- Ephesians: Rise Up & Walk
Church on the Park Live | Mother's Day, Sunday 10 May 2020

Texts: “And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:11-12, NIV). “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10, NASB).

Theme: God's life transcends all life and he wants his life to dwell within you.

Intro: Today, I want to share a message with you in honour of the mothers. Mothers have been entrusted by God to bring life into the world. Not only that, they help life grow and continue. They are a picture of God himself who made mothers in his image and likeness. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the author of life. And they gave us life at the ultimate cost of their life through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. In this message, we will look at the first mother and then flash forward into the future and look at Jesus' mother. And through them we will learn what true life is. [My mother's favourite photo]

1) Life lives in you (John 20:31).

- If you have **Christ** in you, you have **true life**—eternal life—in you.
 - Sometimes we **emphasise** what we **don't have**, rather than what we do have.
 - You have **Christ in you** and that is **everything**.
 - You have eternal life in you and there is **no thrill or adventure** that can beat that life.
- Let me read you **some verses on life**. These verses are talking about **God's life—his genuine, powerful and unstoppable life**.
 - Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life” (John 4:13-14, NIV).
 - “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31, NIV).
 - “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you” (Rom 8:11).
 - When God's Spirit comes to live in you through salvation—**God's very own life dwells within you**.
 - **Live through this life** rather than through your own flesh and strength.
- God has been leading me to pray for **life to enter into the economy and society** of Australia according to **Ezekiel 37**. Prophecy life.
 - God uses two things, which are actually one, to **bring life**.
 - **His Word (prophecy) and His Spirit (breath)**
 - “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the leper, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.” (Matt. 10:8).
 - **Our mission is to give the life** that Christ has given us.
 - *And what does that look like?*
 - It looks like healing, resurrection, salvation, cleansing and freedom from demonic powers.
 - There's a reason why we start our services at **10:10am**. It's based on John 10:10.
 - My home church also was called **Abundant Life Christian Fellowship** in Bayshore, NY.

2) Intercession births life (Romans 8:26-27).

- *What is intercession?*
 - It's a deep and intensive kind of prayer.
 - It's going before the King on behalf of another like Esther.
 - It's like birthing and involves spiritual labour pains.
- Everyone who is **born again** has had someone **intercede** for them.

- First, **Christ** is the **great intercessor** and on the **cross** he died to make **intercession** for us.
- It was **the mothers at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship** that helped birthed me into the Kingdom.
 - They were concerned that I—a worldly DJ—was dating one of their daughters.
 - *So what did they do? They prayed.*
 - *And what happened?* As a result of their prayers, the Holy Spirit began convicting me of my sin.
- **Life's very nature** is to be **fruitful and multiply**.
 - In the **beginning** God **blessed Adam and Eve** (Gen. 1:28).
 - **God's first words** to man were a **blessing**.
 - And God blessed them, saying, "**Be fruitful...**"
 - These women at Abundant Life Christian Fellowship were fruitful—not just naturally, but spiritually.
 - **The pulsating life of God in you has power to change the world around you.** It's the same power that Ezekiel operates in.
 - What is a blessing?
 - A **blessing** is **God's word of empowerment, grace and favour** that **enables** you to **fulfil his will**.
 - *Who was the first mother? And where did she get her name from?*

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(Ge 3:20)

- Here's the second appearance of the word 'mother' in Scripture.
 - **Chavah** - Eve (it begins with the letter *Heth*)
 - And the ancient way to say may have been: **ChaWUAH** or **ChaWAH**
 - Imagine being called **ChaWUAH**. The name sounds powerful.
 - The name means **life or giver of life**.
 - **Mothers give life**, especially those in Jesus.
 - You are called to be a **life giver**.
 - **Life empowers. Life gives. Life heals. Life restores. Life resurrects. Life multiples.**
 - **Chavah**, the first mother, **births life**.
 - **Intercession** is how you **birth spiritual life**.
 - But intercession is **not just for mothers**.
 - **Paul** said he **groaned in labour pains** until Christ would be formed in the Galatians (Gal. 4:19).

3) Forgiveness restores and sustains life (Luke 23:35).

- **Imagine** the **pain Eve felt** when she heard about her sons **Cain and Abel** (Gen. 4).
 - **Abel was innocent, yet Cain killed him.**
 - Now, Eve is torn and filled with pain.
 - One **son** is **dead** and the other one is a **murderer**.
 - The Bible doesn't tell us Eve's reaction—but she would need to forgive her son (cf. Gen. 3:16 - pain not just in birth but raising a child).
 - '...In pain you will give birth...'
 - **Forgiveness is difficult because it involves pain**, but it is one of the ways we fellowship in the sufferings of Christ and restore life to others.
 - **Christ forgave on the cross.**
 - I have found that **mothers are amazing at forgiving**.
 - It's because they allow the **love for a child to supersede the sin**.
 - And **forgiveness** is **essential to sustain life**.
 - Now let's look at **another mother, Mary**.
 - **Mary experienced deep pain** (a sword piercing her heart) while **observing the cross**.
 - She **felt** what **Eve** would have felt for **Abel**.
 - Abel was innocent, but murdered by his brother.
 - **Jesus was innocent but murdered by his brothers, the Pharisees.**
 - And for the same reason: **jealousy**.

- When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, '**Father, forgive them**; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves" (Lk 23:33-34, NASB).
- **Even on the cross**, Jesus was **caring for his mother** (John 19:25-27).
- The cross was **painful**—it is even **difficult to forgive**—but that **pain birthed new life**.

4) Embrace the tree of LIFE (Gen. 2:9, 15-17).

- You have **a choice to feed** off the tree of the LIFE or the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - Sadly, our first mother and father **fell for the trick** of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - When you **live** in **unforgiveness** you feast off the **tree of knowledge**.
 - The tree of knowledge brings **death**—even though it **gives wisdom**.
 - **Knowledge is very tempting**, but without Jesus it puffs up and brings death.
 - Basically, the whole world system operates from the tree of knowledge.
 - The internet is a huge tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
 - **The cross is God's tree of life**.
 - **The Bible** is also God's tree of life. Feast on the **fruit** of Jesus' words and let the **leaves** of Scripture bring healing to you.

Conclusion: All these points spell LIFE: 1) Life lives in you, 2) Intercession births life, 3) Forgiveness restores and sustains life, 4) Embrace the Tree of Life.