

MEANT TO LIVE

WHY ARE WE MEANT TO LIVE?

1. Because Life is Sacred

Matthew 22:17-21 (NLT) Now tell us what you think about this: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"¹⁸ But Jesus knew their evil motives. "You hypocrites!" he said. "Why are you trying to trap me?"¹⁹ Here, show me the coin used for the tax." When they handed him a Roman coin,²⁰ he asked, "Whose picture and title are stamped on it?"²¹ "Caesar's," they replied. "Well, then," he said, "give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

We carry the image of the living God in us and on us.

2. Because we were created to live, not just exist

"We want more than this world's got to offer, we want more than the wars of our fathers, and everything inside screams for second life." - Jon Foreman

Ephesians 2:1,4-5 (NLT) Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ⁴ But God is so

rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Jesus didn't come to make bad people good;
He came so that dead people may live.

HOW ARE WE MEANT TO LIVE?

1. By listening to His voice

Genesis 2:16-17 (NLT) But the LORD God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden - ¹⁷ except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die."

We find freedom and liberty when we seek out and listen to His voice.

John 10:3-4,9-10 (NLT) The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. ⁹ Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. They will come and go freely and will find good pastures. ¹⁰ The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

2. By walking close to God

We walk closest to God by following the path He has laid out for us to take.

Deuteronomy 8:6 (NLT) “So obey the commands of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and fearing him.

Ephesians 2:10 (NASB) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Are we walking close to Him by following the stepping stones He has already placed before us?

Matthew 12:47-50 (NLT) Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.” ⁴⁸ But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?” ⁴⁹ And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! ⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Jesus is saying that those who are closest to Him are those who do that which God has called them to do. Pursing God’s calling brings us close to God.

2 Kings 13:21 (NLT) *Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet.*

Elisha walked in such proximity to the Giver of Life, that even his dead bones had enough life to bring someone back from the dead.

WHO TOLD US WE WERE MEANT TO LIVE?

John 5:21 (NLT) *For just as the Father gives life to those he raises from the dead, so the Son gives life to anyone he wants.*

God the father raised us to physical life and Jesus raises us to spiritual life.

John 1:1-4 (NLT) *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He existed in the beginning with God. ³ God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. ⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.*

When we step into His light, our pain and brokenness gets swallowed up by the magnitude of his grace and love.

John 14:19 (NLT) “*Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live.*”

Jesus' death and resurrection is proof of His victory over the grace and over sin.

Through Him we can be fully connected to the one who can give us the life we are Meant To Live.