

I AM THE LIFE

Jesus' "I AM" (8)

Banská Bystrica, 27th April 2014

John 14:1-10 "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe¹ in God; believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places;¹ if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. ⁴ You know the way where I am going."¹ ⁵ "Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where You're going. How can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus told him, "***I am the way, the truth, and the life.*** No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ "If you know Me, you will also know¹ My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him." ⁸ "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me?^a The words I speak to you I do not speak on My own. The Father who lives in Me does His works.

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0. INTRODUCTION: WHAT "LIFE" MEANS IN THE BIBLE

0.1. PREVIOUS: THE WAY & THE TRUTH

- (1) The way: series of decisions
- (2) The truth: *enabling* to hear/know God (intuition); *access* to the original plan; *protection* from lies

0.2. LIFE IN POPULAR MIND AND IN THE BIBLE

- life, death - in medicine, biology; popular culture and the Bible
 - ... objects having signalling and self-sustaining processes[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Life]
 - life: not just *existence capable of growth and reproduction...!!!*
- Life: in God only; quality of *power, joy, permanence, certainty, health...*
 - EXUBERANCE – bubbling energy, vitality
 - life in depression, pain and separated from God is life in Sheol (Ps 88)

0.3. TO COME TO THE FATHER

- (1) the Way → (2) the Truth, → (3) the Life
- Theology: (1) the *call* → (2) the *Word* → (3) the *Spirit* → the gift of joy (Rom 14:17; Gal 5:22)
- Psychology: (1) the *will* → (2) the *mind* → (3) the *feelings* (EDWARDS → *religious affections*)

0.4. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO THE FATHER - JESUS

0.4.1. THE ONLY SAVIOUR: JESUS

- Jesus is exclusive! → an offence! arrogance? unjust? unfair?... (J 14:6)

0.4.2. THE ONLY WAY: THE CROSS

- the *only* possible transformation of humans → the attraction of the Crucifixion (**John 12:32** And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to myself.)

1. LIFE: THE SOURCE IN JESUS

1.1. FAITH → RECONCILIATION (ROM 5:1)

- following Jesus: **John 8:12** "I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the *light of life*." ("...giving life"; "illuminating life")
- **Gal 2:20** And the **life** I now live in the flesh I live *by faith in the Son of God*, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- Relationship with God (**John 5:26** For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.)
- **John 17:3** And **eternal life** is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.
- **1John 5:12** Whoever **has** the **Son** has **life**, and whoever **has** not the **Son** of God **has** not **life**

= our life consists of processing things from outside – it's similar with spiritual life – we need to be connecting to God Who exists of Himself, doesn't need anyone

= through the Cross I am connected to God and I draw life from Him – justification, peace (Rom 5:1)

= we can't look inside ourselves to find some kind of quality – there is none, but through Him and in Him we find love, joy, peace (Gal 5:6)

1.2. LOVE → COMMUNION & FELLOWSHIP

- **1 John 4:19** We love because **he first loved us**. (αὐτὸς πρῶτος ἠγάπησεν ἡμᾶς)
- **Phil 2:1** So if in Christ there is anything that will move you, any incentive in *love*, any *fellowship in the Spirit* [κοινωνία πνεύματος], any warmth or sympathy -- I appeal to you...
- **Gal 5:6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only *faith working through love*.
- **1John 3:14** We know that we have passed out of death into **life**, because we **love** the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. (*Observe* yourself!!)

2. LIFE: JESUS' LIFESTYLE

- **1 John 2:4** Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,

2.1. FIGHT → VICTORIES OF FAITH

- **Ephesians 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.
 - life in biology → fighting the environment
 - life in Christ → winning in temptations

- "Life is an eternal struggle with temptation..."¹
- **1 John 4:4** ...you are from God and have overcome them [νενικήκατε αὐτούς], for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.
- **1Tim 6:12** Fight the good fight of the faith (ἀγωνίζου τὸν καλὸν ἀγῶνα τῆς πίστεως).
 - A Christian is not a person without sin but he doesn't love sin anymore: 1 John 2:4, 1 John 1:8
 - Not only is a Christian born of Christ but we also apply His lifestyle: FIGHT (to win the souls for God) and LOVE
 - Lifestyle of listening to the Holy Spirit and knowing that I'm not sinless but I don't want to sin

2.2. SERVICE → DELIGHTS OF LOVE

- **Ps 63:3** Better your faithful love **than life** itself [כִּי־טוֹב חַסְדְּךָ מִחַיִּים];
- **John 12:26** If anyone *serves* me, he must follow me;
- **John 4:32** "I have *food to eat* that you do not know about." ... **John 4:34** "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.

3. LIFE: THE WONDER OF JESUS' JOY

- **Pr 17:22** A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.
- **John 15:11** These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

3.1. JOY OF SHEER LIVING

[CHAMBERS] Spiritually beware of anything that takes the wonder out of life and makes you take a prosaic attitude; *when you lose wonder*, you *lose life*. The Spirit of God creates the intuitions of a child in a man and keeps him in touch with the elemental and real, and the miracle of Christianity is that a man can be made young in heart and mind and spirit.²

- SCHILLER & BEETHOVEN –
 - Spark from the fire that Gods have fled
 - Joy thou Elysian Child divine,
 - Fire-drunk, our airy footsteps tread,
 - O Holy One ! thy holy shrine.
- **Neh 8:10** ...the *joy of Yahweh* (הֵיָהוָה יְהוָה) is your stronghold (הֵיָהוָה מְעֻזָּכֶם)
- **1 Peter 1:8** Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory,

3.2. EXPECTATIONS (HOPE)

- life: meaning; future, joy – not just “a cream on the top” of Christian life!
- **Heb 12:2** ...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who *for the joy* that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. = What do you live for?! Are your eyes set on this life or on heaven?
- **1 Cor 13:13 - 14:1** So now *faith, hope, and love* abide, these three; but the greatest of these is *love*. [*faith, hope, love* ⇒ LIFE!]

4. CONCLUSIONS

- To come to the Father means to get life from Jesus. Forgiveness from the Cross.
- To come to the Father means to live life like Jesus. Lifestyle of righteousness.
- To come to the Father means to enjoy the hope eternal life with Jesus. The future is heaven.

¹ SOLZENITSYN, A. *August 1914*, p. 8

² CHAMBERS, O. *The Place of Help*, (Works, p. 1042)