

DIVINE RESOURCES FOR LIFE

John 1:4

(John 1:4), "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."



- S **LIFE** is one of those words we use so often that we almost **TAKE IT FOR GRANTED**. The word **LIFE** is used in the Bible at least **450X's**. The word **LIVING** occurs **147X's**. The **BIBLE** is a book about **LIFE**. If we are going to be true to the message of the Bible, we are going to address the subject of **LIFE**.
- S **ONE MAJOR THEME** in the Gospel of John is **LIFE**. The word **LIFE** occurs **44X's** IN THE BOOK OF JOHN.
- S In our examination of **LIFE** we will take **A BROAD OVERVIEW** of Scripture. We will look in the Book of **GENESIS**. We will consider some **ADJECTIVES** and descriptive words used in the Bible to explain the meaning of life.

- I. THE AUTHOR OF LIFE
- II. THE KINDS OF LIFE
- III. THE DEATH OF LIFE
- IV. THE REBIRTH OF LIFE
- V. THE QUALITIES OF LIFE
- VI. THE ASSURANCE OF LIFE
- VII. AIDES TO NAVIGATE YOUR LIFE

I. THE AUTHOR OF LIFE

(John 1:4), "IN HIM WAS LIFE; . . . "

- S In other words **JESUS IS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE!**
- S If you follow **THE FLOW JOHN 1:1-4**, we see God in eternity past before the creation of the world. Those verses quickly present the author of **CREATION**, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was God. The Bible makes abundantly clear that **JESUS WAS THE CREATOR** of the universe. As creator and God, **JESUS WAS THE AUTHOR OF LIFE**. Not only **WAS** Jesus the author of life, **JESUS IS** the author of life.
- (Acts 17:28), "For in him **WE LIVE**, and move, and have our

being; . . . "

- **(Col 1:17)**, "And he is before all things, and **BY HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST.**"

(niv), ". . . **IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.**"

S SO, the next time you want something for which **TO PRAISE GOD**, remember that **EVERY LIVING THING** has life because God gave it life.

I. THE AUTHOR OF LIFE

II. THE KINDS OF LIFE

TWO KINDS OF LIFE

#1. PHYSICAL LIFE

S **THE FIRST USE** of the word *LIFE* in the Bible is a reference to *PHYSICAL LIFE*.

(Gen 1:20), "And God said, Let **the waters** bring forth abundantly **THE MOVING CREATURE THAT HATH LIFE**, and **FOWL** that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."

S The word *LIFE* is used **IN THE PHYSICAL SENSE** when the young man **EUTYCHUS** fell asleep during Paul's preaching. He fell out of the third story window to the ground below. They thought he was dead after he hit the ground. Paul went and fell upon him and said,

(Acts 20:10), ". . . Trouble not yourselves; for **HIS LIFE IS IN HIM.**"

S Sometimes the word *life* refers to *physical life*. Physical life is important. It is what gives us opportunity to move around and enjoy God's physical creation. However, **AS IMPORTANT AS PHYSICAL LIFE IS, IT IS NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT KIND OF LIFE.**

#2. SPIRITUAL LIFE

S **PEOPLE** are more than just physical beings. We are more than just bodies. WE ARE **UNIQUE** from all other LIVING CREATURES because of our spiritual life.

S BECAUSE OF OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE WE HAVE THE **CAPACITY TO KNOW GOD IN SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP** and **WORSHIP**. **GOD MADE MAN** with the capacity to worship.

- We are **like other living things** in that we have a body. We are **different** from other creatures in that we have been created with **A SPIRITUAL NATURE**. We have been created in the **IMAGE OF GOD** (Gen 2:26-27).

THERE ARE **TWO KINDS OF LIFE: PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL**.

The Bible clearly reveals which of the two is of greatest importance:

- **(2 Cor 4:18)**, "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."
- **(Heb 11:13)**, "... Strangers and **PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH**."
- **(Heb 1:10-12)**, "And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: {11} **THEY SHALL PERISH; BUT THOU REMAINEST**; and **THEY ALL SHALL WAX OLD** as doth a garment; {12} And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and **THEY SHALL BE CHANGED: BUT THOU ART THE SAME, AND THY YEARS SHALL NOT FAIL**."

S **A PERSON'S SENSE OF WORTH & PURPOSE** is greatly enhanced once they realize they are not just a random collection of **CELLS**. We are persons created in the image of the Creator God Himself. We are designed for fellowship with Him. God made us with the intention that we live forever with God.

- I. THE AUTHOR OF LIFE
- II. THE KINDS OF LIFE

III. THE DEATH OF LIFE

THE FIRST MENTION OF DEATH IN THE BIBLE IS FOUND IN **(Gen 2:16-17)**, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: {17} But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.**”

S GENESIS 1 introduced **LIFE**. IN GENESIS 2 God **warned** Adam of **DEATH**. Adam was given a new word for his vocabulary — death. Adam had experienced life, but he had never experienced death.

S Eventually **ADAM AND EVE ATE** of the forbidden fruit and AS A RESULT THEY **DIED!** They experienced **TWO DEATHS:**

#1. ADAM & EVE DIED PHYSICALLY

S Physical death **TOOK TIME** to occur, but Adam **DIED NONETHELESS**. Adam lived **930** years (Gen 5:5), but he eventually died.

S **EVERYONE EVENTUALLY DIES PHYSICALLY**. There are NO EXCEPTIONS. THE SCRIPTURE SAYS:

- “... **IT IS APPOINTED** unto men once to die . . . ”
(Heb 9:27).
- **DAVID TOLD SOLOMON, "I GO THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH . . . "** (1 Ki 2:2)

S IT MATTERS NOT **A PERSON'S STATION** IN LIFE, THEY EVENTUALLY DIE.

- 1) **DAVID WAS KING** of Israel and a man after God's own heart, but he died.
- 2) **LUKE WAS A DOCTOR** and knew the cures for certain diseases, yet he died.
- 3) **NICODEMUS WAS WEALTHY** and he died.
- 4) **PAUL WAS HIGHLY EDUCATED** and one of the most **dynamic missionaries** of all time, but Paul still died.

S **RANDY ALCORN**

“Life's greatest certainty is death. The statistics never change. Of those who are born, 100 per cent die. Talking about death won't hasten it. Denying death won't delay it.”

#1. ADAM & EVE DIED PHYSICALLY

#2. ADAM & EVE DIED SPIRITUALLY

(Gen 2:17), "... **IN THE DAY** that thou eatest thereof **THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.**"

S Whereas their physical death took place several years later, **THEIR SPIRITUAL DEATH WAS IMMEDIATE.** God stated "**IN THE DAY** that you eat thereof." After they ate, they continued to **breathe, walk and talk.** They did not die immediately physically, but they did die immediately spiritually.

S After eating the forbidden fruit, they might have **WONDERED** why God had gone to all the trouble **to warn** them. It did not take long for them to understand why.

S **THE FIRST EVIDENCE** that something was desperately wrong began to manifest itself in **Genesis 3:7-8.**

TWO NEW EXPERIENCES came by way of their spiritual death:

1) Adam and Eve **SEWED FIG LEAVES** together **to cover themselves** before God. They were no longer covered in the glory of God.

2) Because they were **AFRAID** of God (v. 10), they **HID** from God among the trees of the garden. They had never wanted to hide from God before until the day they died spiritually. The sad thing is that people having been trying to hide from God ever since then.

GOD DID **TWO THINGS** related to Adam and Eve He had **not previously done** in response to their sin. What He did painted **A PICTURE** of future events in Scripture.

#1. GOD MADE COATS OF SKINS (Gen 3:21)

God did away with Adam and Eve's frail attempt to cover their own sin. He disposed of the fig leaves and covered them in the skin of an animal. God offered **THE FIRST BLOOD SACRIFICE.** It was the first picture in the Bible of the coming sacrifice of the Lord Jesus that would cover their sins.

#2. GOD DROVE THEM FROM THE GARDEN

(Gen 3:24), "So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **TO KEEP THE WAY OF THE TREE OF LIFE.**"

God **DROVE THEM FROM THE GARDEN** lest they partake of **THE TREE OF LIFE** and live forever in their sins (Gen 3:22). Then God **POSTED ANGELS** at the garden for a very specific purpose:

(Gen 3:24 niv), "... **TO GUARD THE WAY TO THE TREE OF LIFE.**"

God was **not** so much **keeping them from** the tree of life as much as He was **KEEPING THEM FOR** the tree of life. All those things **POINTED TO JESUS** who is described in **JOHN 14:6** as "... the **way**, the **truth** and the **life.**"

THERE IS AN APPLICATION FOR US TODAY

S WHEN ADAM DIED SPIRITUALLY, WE ALL DIED SPIRITUALLY. We may not like that truth, but that is God's revealed truth nonetheless.

(1 Cor 15:22), "... **IN ADAM ALL DIE, ...** "

Adam passed **HIS SINFUL NATURE TO US**. That is why King David wrote:

(Psa 51:5), "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and **IN SIN DID MY MOTHER CONCEIVE ME.**"

PARENTS do not have to teach their little babies to be **selfish**. **Little children** do not have to be taught to **lie and cover up**. Did your parents send you to **LYING SCHOOL** to learn how to deny you snuck in the cookie jar? Children know how to lie before anyone ever teaches them.

THE POINT IS — WHEN ADAM DIED SPIRITUALLY, WE ALL DIED SPIRITUALLY IN HIM. Every human being who has ever walked the face of this earth, except the Lord Jesus Christ himself, has experienced spiritual death. **IF** a person **DOES NOT FIND GOD'S SOLUTION** to their spiritual death, they will ultimately experience what the Bible calls the **SECOND DEATH** (Rev 2:11; 20:6; 21:8). They will someday die physically and be ushered into hell to **DIE ETERNALLY**.

- I. THE AUTHOR OF LIFE
- II. THE KINDS OF LIFE
- III. THE DEATH OF LIFE

IV. THE REBIRTH OF LIFE

(John 1:4), "IN HIM WAS LIFE; . . . "

(Eph 2:5), "Even when we were dead in sins, hath QUICKENED {made us alive} us together WITH CHRIST, (by grace ye are saved;)"

S FOLLOW THE PROGRESSION:

1) **ADAM WAS BORN ALIVE**

2) **HE DIED SPIRITUALLY** while he was yet physically alive.

3) **IF** he was going to be alive again, something miraculous had to happen that would **GIVE HIM LIFE**.

S IF WE WERE ALL DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS, something **miraculous** had to happen that would **GIVE US LIFE AGAIN**. God provided for the miracle of new spiritual life:

(John 3:3), "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

S GOD MADE PROVISION FOR THE MIRACLE OF NEW LIFE through **THE NEW BIRTH**. That does not mean a person enters their mother's womb and are born again physically. It means a person places their faith in Jesus Christ and by that means are born again spiritually. God takes their dead spirit and brings it back to life. It has been said, "If you are born once, you will die twice. If you born twice, you only die once."

S AS A PARENT GIVES NEW LIFE TO A BABY, SO GOD gives **new life** to those who are born again by trusting in Jesus Christ. When a person is born again, **A WONDERFUL & MIRACULOUS** exchange takes place:

S GOD TAKES OUR DEATH AND GIVES US HIS LIFE

(Gal 2:20), "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

S GOD TAKES OUR **SIN** AND GIVES US HIS **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

(2 Cor 5:21), "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

S GOD TAKES OUR **CONDEMNATION** AND GIVES US HIS **ACCEPTANCE** (Rom 8:1; Eph 1:6)

(Rom 8:1), "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

S GOD TAKES OUR **WEAKNESS** AND GIVES US HIS **STRENGTH**

(Phil 4:13), "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

- I. THE **AUTHOR** OF LIFE
- II. THE **KINDS** OF LIFE
- III. THE **DEATH** OF LIFE
- IV. THE **REBIRTH** OF LIFE

V. THE QUALITIES OF LIFE

THERE ARE **TWO ADJECTIVES** used in the Scripture to describe life. They deserve our attention:

#1. ETERNAL LIFE

S The adjective that accompanies the word *life* more than any other word in Scripture is the word ***ETERNAL or EVERLASTING***.

(John 3:16), "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**."

(John 3:36), "He that believeth on the Son hath **EVERLASTING LIFE**: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

(John 6:47), "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath **EVERLASTING LIFE**."

(John 10:28), "And I give unto them **ETERNAL LIFE**; and

THEY SHALL NEVER PERISH, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

S THERE is more to the word *ETERNAL* than just the quality of life. It also speaks regarding the **LENGTH AND DURATION** of life. **ETERNAL LIFE IS FOREVER LIFE**. One reason to believe in the **ETERNAL SECURITY** of the believer is the fact God gives to His children *eternal life*. How long is eternal life? If it is life that lasts until we sin, it was not eternal life. If it is life that continues only twenty years, it is not eternal life. Eternal life is *everlasting life*. It is life that goes on without ending.

S **SOMEONE ASKS — BUT WHAT IF THEY SIN?** Then we have an advocate with the Father.

- **(1 John 2:1)**, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have **AN ADVOCATE** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"
- An advocate is the same as **A DEFENSE LAWYER**.

S **SUPPOSE A ROOKIE MOUNTAIN CLIMBER** goes on a mountain climbing expedition with some experienced climbers. The rookie makes his first trip up a mountain. The experienced climber goes ahead of him leaving the rope tied to the new climber who trails behind. The experienced climber reaches the upper ledge of a steep cliff and hollers down below for the journeyman to begin his ascent. About half way up the cliff the rookie slips and falls. He only falls a few feet because he is tied to the rope fastened to the advanced climber. The rookie dangles until the experienced climber retrieves him. That was a serious fall, but not nearly as serious as it could have been. The life line attached to rookie made his fall less severe. Without the rope he would have fallen 1000 feet to his death.

When we accepted Christ as our personal Savior, we were attached to the eternal lifeline. That does not mean we will never fall. That means when we do fall, we will not fall to our eternal death. The advocate with the Father has the other end of our lifeline and He is not going to let go.

#1. **ETERNAL LIFE**

#2. **ABUNDANT LIFE**

(John 10:10), "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it

MORE ABUNDANTLY."

S There is **A VERSE** that is **OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE HEAVEN**. In context that verse is describing the Christian life on earth. It speaks of the abundance God has in store for those who love Him.

(1 Cor 2:9), "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

S **THERE COMES A GREAT LIBERTY & FREEDOM & JOY** when a person realizes their sin has been forgiven. That liberty is one source of the abundant life.

S **JOHN PIPER**

"Satan's ultimate weapon against us is our own sin. If the death of Jesus takes it away, the chief weapon the devil has is taken out of his hand. In that sense 'he is rendered powerless'" (*Future Grace*, p 355)

S **WHEN GOD TAKES CARE OF THE PROBLEM OF our sin**, there comes **GREAT LIBERTY**.

(Rom 8:1), "There is therefore now **NO CONDEMNATION** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

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VI. THE ASSURANCE OF LIFE

(1 John 5:13), "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."

S I came to salvation in the Lord at age seventeen. Though I had attended church all my life, **THE REVIVAL PREACHER** asked me to do some things I had never done before. He said, "If you died tonight and know you would go to heaven, raise your hand." I did not raise my hand. Then he added, "If you died tonight and know you would go to hell, raise your hand." I did not raise my

hand because I did not want anyone to know.

- S One of my **DEFENSE MECHANISMS** against his request was the belief that no one can know in advance where they will spend eternity. In the middle of my defense, he quoted 1 John 5:13. All my excuses were rolled away.
- S A person can know in this life whether or not they have eternal life. God wants us to know. If we do not know, we are not going to tell others that they can know.
- S **CONSIDER FIVE PROOFS** that you have eternal life.

#1. YOU HAVE ASKED

- **(Rom 10:13)**, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- **GOD CANNOT LIE** (Titus 1:2)
- **I ASKED** God for eternal life in **AUGUST 1969**. Have you asked God for eternal life? Have you confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of your life? **ONE PROOF** you have eternal life is **YOU HAVE ASKED** for it.

#2. GOD'S SPIRIT BEARS WITNESS WITH YOUR SPIRIT

- **(Rom 8:16)**, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:"
- **OUR PARENTS** had ways of letting us know that we were their children. Sometimes it was a hug around the neck. Other times it was some form of discipline. **OUR HEAVENLY FATHER** also has ways of letting us know we belong to Him.

SOMETIMES it is a deep sense of inner joy the results from the presence of God in our life. The person with new life likely has several personal testimonies of times in which God expressed His love them.

OTHER TIMES God took us as His children and **DISCIPLINED US**.

(Heb 12:6), "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

That discipline was one proof of possessing God's eternal life. The person with new life likely has several personal testimonies of God's discipline in their life.

#3. YOU LOVE FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS

- **(1 John 3:14)**, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because **WE LOVE THE BRETHREN**. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.”
- **(1 John 4:7)**, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and **EVERY ONE THAT LOVETH IS BORN OF GOD**, and knoweth God.”
- **(1 John 4:12)**, “No man hath seen God at any time. **IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER, GOD DWELLETH IN US**, and his love is perfected in us.”

#4. YOU WANT TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS

- Just as **A NEW BORN BABY** announces his new birth, a **NEW BELIEVER** has a way of announcing God’s new life in him. That announcement is just as natural a response to new spiritual life as is a baby crying at birth.
- **ANDREW** had to tell Peter about Jesus.
- **THE LADY AT THE WELL HAD TO TELL**
(John 4:28-29), “The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, {29} **COME, SEE A MAN**, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”
- **(Psa 107:2)**, “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, . . . ”

#5. GODLY CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN YOUR NEW LIFE

- **(2 Cor 5:17)**, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is **A NEW CREATURE**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
- God creates in His children **A NEW PURPOSE & DIRECTION IN LIFE**

THREE EXAMPLES:

[#1]. A GREATER AWARENESS OF SIN

- S **THE THINGS GOD CALLED WRONG**, we began to call wrong after experiencing God’s new life. We stopped

defending our sin, and started confessing it instead. That change was a proof of life's presence within us.

- S The persons with God's life in them can probably give **TESTIMONY** of the changes God has brought into their lives. Years ago, while a teenager, I watched **A MOVIE** that I thought was so neat. It was a movie about a guy that went from town to town ripping people off. For years I told people they ought make a point to see that movie someday. One day, many years later, they showed that movie on T.V. I made a point to watch it. I only made it through about thirty minutes. I was embarrassed that I had recommended that movie to other people. Years had passed and almost unknown to me, God had done a work in me that had changed my attitude toward sin.
- S **(1 John 3:3)**, "And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

[#2]. INCREASED SOCIAL PRESSURES & TESTINGS

(2 Tim 3:12), "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

(Luke 6:22), "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake."

[#3]. A GREATER HUNGER FOR GOD'S WORD

(1 Pet 2:2), "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

- S When a baby is born, they come with an immediate **CRY FOR FOOD**.
- S When **A SPIRITUAL BABY** is born, there comes a new hunger for **SPIRITUAL FOOD — THE WORD OF GOD**. My own experience was a brand-new desire to listen to Bible studies and sermons. I moved off the back row and actually wanted to know what the preacher was talking about because he was talking about God.

VII. DIVINE RESOURCES FOR LIFE

S **WANDA JACKSON** was a famous western singer from days gone by. She told how she knew she needed to come to God for salvation, but was afraid she could not live the Christian life. She wanted to first get rid of things in her life that did not belong and then give her life to Jesus. The problem was she did not have the power to get rid of them apart from God's strength. One day she gave her life to Jesus and experience **ETERNAL LIFE**. As a result, God gave her the power to get rid of the things that did not belong. God empowered her through the gift of His salvation to live the Christian life.

S **AT SALVATION** God gives us new life, **BUT IT IS UNFINISHED**. It is like **THE NEW BICYCLE** you bought for your kids at Christmas that required some assembly. We have new life **BUT SOME ASSEMBLY IS REQUIRED**. The good news is God helps us with the assembling of our lives.

(Phil 1:6), "Being confident of this very thing, that **HE WHICH HATH BEGUN** a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

(Phil 2:12), "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

(Phil 2:13), "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

CONSIDER FOUR DIVINE RESOURCES God uses **TO FASHION HIS GIFT OF NEW LIFE IN US**:

#1. GOD USES HIS PRESENCE IN OUR LIFE

S **(Heb 13:5)**, "... **I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR FORSAKE THEE.**"

S **GOD GIVES TO HIS CHILDREN THE PRESENCE OF HIS HOLY SPIRIT**

(John 14:17), "Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **HE DWELLETH WITH YOU, and SHALL BE IN YOU.**"

S **JESUS CALLED THE HOLY SPIRIT *THE COMFORTER***

(John 16:7), "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the **COMFORTER** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

The word for *COMFORTER* means to *WALK ALONG SIDE OF*. God is present in the life of a believer to comfort and to guide.

- S THE BIBLE SAYS TO **BE FILLED WITH GOD'S SPIRIT** (**Eph 5:18 nkjv**), "And do not be drunk with wine, . . . but **BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**,"

#2. GOD USES HIS WORD IN OUR LIFE

(John 15:7), "If ye abide in me, and **MY WORDS** abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

- S The Bible refers to **GOD'S WORD AS MILK and MEAT** (1 Cor 3:2; Heb 5:12). Just like we have to eat physical food for our bodies to grow, we have to have **GOD'S WORD** for our **SPIRITUAL LIVES** to grow.
- S I think of **THE NEW BORN BABY**. The new baby possesses brand-new life. With that new life one of the first things **HE SAYS IS FEED ME**. He will not grow unless he is fed. **THAT IS A PARABLE** for us. Without **THE SPIRITUAL FOOD OF GOD'S WORD** we will not grow.

#3. GOD USES HIS FAMILY IN OUR LIFE

(Heb 10:25), "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **EXHORTING ONE ANOTHER**: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

#4. GOD USES HIS PRESENT & FUTURE GRACE IN OUR LIFE

(Rom 5:2), "By whom also we have **ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE WHEREIN WE STAND**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

- S I like very much **THE SONG KENT SNYDER** sang in our church Sunday night a couple of weeks ago. The words go something like "**we fall down, we get up.**" I think of **PETER** who denied Jesus three times. He fell down, but he also got up.

S **THE SAME GRACE** the brought to salvation, keeps us in salvation. Without future grace in our lives, none of us would ever make it safely to heaven. **SALVATION IS THE BEGINNING OF OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OF LIFE.** God's grace is available for **THE ENTIRE JOURNEY** of eternal life.

MICHELANGELO started **forty-four statues** but completed only **fourteen**. In a museum in **Italy** you can see his **thirty** unfinished works. There are huge blocks of marble with only a hand or a foot completed. (Robert C. Shannon, 1000 Windows, Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997)

At salvation our lives are like those unfinished statues. Our potential for service is still locked up within us. As we go through life, God's intention is that we grow in His grace.

- **(Phil 1:6)**, "Being confident of this very thing, that **HE WHICH HATH BEGUN** a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"
- **(Phil 2:12)**, "Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."
- **(Phil 2:13)**, "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."