



Recover Your Life & Arise





Day One: Your Real Life

We've spent many weeks looking at the various and extraordinary facets of our new identity. Yet regarding identity, we have a 'But wait, there's more!' moment and it's truly exciting:

With your new identity comes your new life.

We may think this pertains to eternal life and going to heaven when this life on earth is finished. But that's not the fullness of this statement.

With your new identity on this earth comes your new life on this earth. Consider Colossians 3:3 below – it's not talking about heaven; it's talking about our life on this earth.

Colossians 3:3 (AMP) *For [as far as this world is concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God.*

With your new identity comes your new life – your new reality and your new way of living! This is a totally fresh, one-with-Christ, Kingdom of God life, full of power and impact which He offers to us. And it's available to us when we walk in the reality of our identity and we realise that we are crucified with Him ('you have died') and also that we are resurrected with Him ('your new, real life is hidden with Christ'). In other words, that we are ONE with Him. Our real life is hidden IN Him.

We have a real life OR we have a flesh life.

Which one are we living? Because God gives us the choice. With your new identity comes your new life but you can consider yourself to be alive to either one – the flesh life that the world offers you or the life Jesus offers you which is hidden with Christ in God. Only one is your REAL life... this is the life that God intended for you before the foundation of the world.

Isaiah 139:16 (AMP) *Your eyes saw my unformed substance, and in Your book all the days [of my life] were written before ever they took shape, when as yet there were none of them.*

God actually planned and wrote every day of your life before you ever entered this world! It was a life of complete oneness with Himself, Christ and Holy



Spirit, in which the fullness of His life in you would lead you in a limitless, glorious existence! He penned the life that He offers you – your new, real life which is hidden in Christ Jesus! The question is:

Q: Am I LIVING my new, real life?

And He doesn't ask that question to condemn or even 'convict' us. Conviction is actually a word that the church has managed to destroy the meaning of. The Biblical use of this word is always 'conviction TO righteousness'. In other words, He says, *'Here's a picture of who you ALREADY are. Here's a picture of what you ALREADY have, My lovely. I have empowered you to live it. Choose...'*

So when you read this question, don't read it with a sense of shame if you feel you're not already living your new, real life. Read it with a sense of excitement!!!

There's a new, real life available for YOU!!!! The door is open to you! If you've felt dissatisfied with the life you've been living... if you're tired of the survival offered to you by the world, get excited! God is offering you this new, real life right now. He hasn't gone back and edited His book! It still says what it always says and it's still yours. It's His offer to you today... if you want it... if you will choose it.

And if you choose it, you will find it in one place: In Him.



There is a life of the flesh and there is a real life – intended by God – for you. Which one are you living and why?



Day Two: Survival is Seductive

Does any of this sound familiar?

From 'The Power of Uncommon Unity' by Joey LeTourneau

"Growing up, my nickname was Tigger. I was always bouncing around freely, fully, and overflowing life to the greatest extent I could. I didn't know any better except to be myself...As I simply lived and overflowed life, others would follow. It was the most natural form of leadership just from being myself. I wasn't trying to lead per se, but I was freely living and overflowing the life God created me with, the life of Jesus that He was bringing out from within me. Unfortunately, by my early teenage years that freedom began to change... I wasn't simply overflowing life anymore but resorted to managing my life and who I was or appeared to be. My vision changed. I was looking too much at myself, at other people's opinions, their expectations, and comparing...I lost my freedom to simply and powerfully overflow...now I was managing who I was rather than living freely from who He was inside me and being who He created me to be.

When we do this, everyone around us suffers. We are each part of a unique but powerful chain of life, one that calls us to be unique, special, and set apart. Other people need what God has naturally given us, and vice versa. When we limit ourselves and stop freely overflowing that unique and powerful life God has put inside us, our sphere of influence will begin to lack what we have been created by God to innately carry and overflow. The "more" that most of us are often looking for is actually within us all the time...

If we do not give out to others the unique image and reflection of God that is within us, that special part of us that was created to shine from our lives will begin to pass away...The enemy uses the world to make us insecure, and he tries to intimidate us from being different. But different is where God's power waits within each of us, and it is the very place that others...are waiting or – the Jesus within you! Jesus is waiting to be revealed through each of our lives in many different ways. Too often we keep our world-changing differences locked inside...



I lost my freedom to simply “be.” I lost the who, traded it for the what, and completely forgot how God had created me to live and overflow...I started to try to fit in instead of allowing God to stand out.”

This is not simply Joey’s story... it’s most people’s story... beginning life with a sense of who we are and the freedom to simply BE who God created us to be... but exchanging it along the way for a counterfeit – managing our lives and ourselves... conforming to the lives we see around us and not being different from others. In other words, the slippery slope to survival.

When we are surviving, we:

- See ourselves as separate to Jesus (which means we’re not seeing ourselves as one with Him).
- Conform our lives to those around us.
- Try to manage our lives, manage our time and manage who we are (which means He’s not free to do it).
- Have lost our freedom.
- End up feeling trapped in the life that the world has offered us, not knowing that there still exists a new, real life for us.

Who wants to get back to the place of being free to overflow His life within us, and living out the new, real life He wrote for us? Me too!

So His good news to us today is that even if we know this story with great familiarity... even if we today find ourselves in survival, our new, real life is on offer to us! It’s still there and with the eyes of our new identity, He wants us to recover our new, real life.



Are you more familiar with ‘overflowing life’ or ‘managing life’?



Day Three: Hidden for Us

So we want our new, real life! We've realised that it's ours to walk in... but we don't know HOW to walk in it. After all, Colossians 3:3 tells us that our new, real life is HIDDEN with Christ in God.

Let's not think this means God doesn't want us to find it. Our new, real life is hidden in Christ FOR us, NOT from us. God knows we can't possibly live this life without the life of Christ in us, therefore we can't find this life outside of Christ. He has hidden it WITHIN Himself.

God has also hidden our new, real life in Christ Jesus because the world can't recognise it there and can't take it away from us. Nor can satan access anything that is in Christ. Once again the only limitation we are ever faced with is ourselves... will we yield to Christ and to this new, real life? Will we choose it? This is the ONLY barrier. God is not a barrier, satan is not a barrier and the world is not a barrier.

Oh, how easy it is to miss it – to live and die and never live out our new, real life! It's painful - because deep down we know we're created for so much more – but simple. Survival is so seductive... it offers itself as the easy alternative and many are taken into its grip. This is why the eyes of the Lord are ever roaming...

2 Chronicles 16:9 (AMP) *For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show Himself strong in behalf of those whose hearts are blameless toward Him...*

Those in whom He can show Himself strong are those who live out of their true identity... His life in them...their new, real life in Him. The life of God is His 'zoe' life – the same quality of life as God Himself - and He wants it to flow through our lives. The Lord is continually searching for such people because they are few and far between. But they're not few and far between because it's hard. It's not about our own qualifications but simply about choosing to receive what He has already done and allowing His zoe life to flow through us as our own. Such people are few and far between because most people don't know... most people don't choose.

But you know. And you get to choose.



If you'll yield to the new, real life hidden with Christ inside you, you will be the minority. You'll experience life on a level far beyond all you can hope, imagine or think. You'll discover what it is to live the real life you were created for, the life in which God gets to show Himself strong through you.

And as you find the courage to be one of the few, others will watch you, you will awaken their hearts and...

The few will become many.

Will you let Him show Himself strong in your life? Will you lay aside the life the world offers you and pick up your new, real life which is hidden with Christ in God?

It all starts in one place. First you have to recover your life.



What is the quality of life that God possesses?

This is the quality of life that is offered to you in your true, real life. Do you want it? Will you receive it?



Day Four: Recover Your Life

The word 'Recover' means to return to a normal state of health, mind or strength; to find or gain possession of something lost or stolen; to take back, or to 'get again'.

In other words, to get back the clarity of seeing from God's perspective and to take back the freedom of releasing God's life through you.

When we first hear the term 'Recover your life', we may imagine ourselves taking back what's ours by force, or some mental picture of 'conquering'. The good news is that Jesus has already conquered for us and when the Bible talks about us recovering our lives, it has an entirely different approach. Let's look at it:

Matthew 11:28 – 30 (MSG) *Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.*

I don't know about you, but this scripture is beautiful news to my ears. When God showed it to me, it was like a weight lifted off me. I didn't have to fight to get my true life back! I didn't have to force and coerce and make things happen! I didn't have to set goals and form a strategic plan to get from where I was to where God wanted me to be! In fact, if I did those kind of things, I would miss it! I just had to do one thing... REST in Him.

He had already contended on my behalf, and I could now live freely and lightly in Him.

This is your good news, too. He has contended on your behalf, and the way you will recover your life is exactly the same – rest in Him! And when you do, you'll find it! You'll be living out of your new, real life and it will always be free and it will always be light!

Your new, real life will never be found in the midst of hurrying and scurrying... in survival or in pressure and force. That's simply not what it looks like. How could it be? That's not the quality of life that God possesses! He's constantly at



peace, and constantly at rest. And He offers us a life that is the outflow of this life. It is a life of freedom, flow and limitlessness. It is not a life of force, limitations and captivity.

Let's face it, we all know what it feels like to be burned out, worn out and tired. Will we get up and do another round of doing what we've always done (which hasn't worked) and try to go, go, go, make it happen and fight? Will we slip into the grip of survival... where we've tried and failed and ultimately given up... we're no longer trying to live in true life but trying not to die? Or will we come away with Him, and enter into a whole realm of life that messes greatly with our intellect but is what our hearts have been searching for all along?

Soak Time

Now that you know, what will you choose? Doing more of the same wearying self-effort, slipping into survival, or entering in your new, real life?



Day Five: What Rest Looks Like

The Lord had to teach me a lot about rest – I had no reference for it! I received a prophetic word which said that God wanted me to go to the top of a mountain... that He had something to say to me there. So I did. I went to the lookout on a local mountain... and sat there, and waited.

I wondered what God had to say to me? For a while I couldn't settle, my mind was busy and I was wondering where He was. But after a while I started to relax... and then I realised why He'd sent me there.

It was so quiet! I noticed birds soaring effortlessly, just gliding on the wind with their wings outstretched, not even really flapping. I noticed how beautiful it was as I took in the view of all He had created in that place. It was so restful and I realised that He is rest. All that is true in His creation is at rest. There's a reason why nature beckons us so much, and it's because of this... we feel at peace when we are surrounded by peace. I just soaked it all in, closed my eyes and enjoyed an overwhelming sense of His rest.

After a little while, God started to prompt my awareness of other sounds. I looked down below the mountain and heard the sounds of running... there were cars driving along the roads, chainsaws at work... the toil of men. Achievement. Law. Self effort. But until I'd focussed on it, I hadn't even noticed it.

Up on that mountain with God, I could just BE. I felt the sense of what it is to be seated in heavenly places with Him as the perspective from which He operates. He lives in the peace, and He reigns in freedom. He is not frenzied and harrowed and busy and His eyes are not focussed on all that self-effort.

Galatians 5:18 (TPT) *But when you are brought into the full freedom of the spirit of grace, you will no longer be living under the domination of the law but soaring above it.*

I felt the freedom of soaring above the busyness of life.

Yet I knew that in my life, this was not my everyday experience. I asked the Lord, 'Why aren't I living like this?' and He gave me a picture of a running track on an oval. I was in one lane, and Jesus was in the one beside me. He was



running at a certain pace, but I wasn't staying with Him. I was running ahead and lapping Him... beside Him only for a brief moment as I was passing by. I realised that I wasn't abiding in His rest... I wasn't keeping His pace – I was keeping my own pace. And it meant that I'd feel like I was in His Presence only from time to time – I'd 'touch' Him and then I couldn't seem to 'touch' Him, but it had nothing to do with Him and everything to do with me and the pace at which I was running. To someone who'd been seeking the Lord about how to 'abide' with Him, this was a huge key.

He showed me I'd spent a lifetime running. That it had all been about my DO. Yet He just wanted me to BE. I thought arising and living my destiny was all about what I could accomplish, in serving Him. But after this, I knew I could never live the life He had planned for me, outside of His rest.

Soak Time

What is your heart saying to you about what rest looks like? Do you walk in it? Do you long for it?
