

I am the resurrection and the life: he that liveth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live and whosoever
VICTORIOUS LIVING

"He that liveth and believeth in ME shall never die."

Jan. 11, 25-26

Lammalk

In days such as these, when the news of deaths fills the paper and is cried out over the radio, we need to pause now and then to emphasize the thought of living... He who really lives never dies. "He that liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. There will be a translation... a conscious or unconscious going out of the physical body into the life that is real... but in that case those that have lived right will have entered real life."

In his little book "The Art Of Living." Norman Vincent Peale has a chapter on "Taking Time To Live." And that is time to live in the physical body. About the first thing we need to do to learn to live is to know ourselves. What kind of creatures we are. Many people come and go on the scene of human action never really knowing what manner of being they are. One person remarked concerning such persons.. "They died with all their possibilities in them." They never took time nor made the effort to know their latent possibilities.

The story is told of some Americans who were making their way through Africa. They employed some natives to guide them. The first two days they traveled fast. They were in a hurry as most Americans are. The third morning the native guides sat under the trees and refused to get up and go. Being asked why they would not go they replied, "We shall rest today to let our souls catch up with our bodies." "Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord." *affirmations of good living*

Know the way of Godliness more up to date
Along with the "Pause that refreshes" we need other pauses. God was very clear to early humanity back there in the early dawn of the march of good men as He told them to work six days and on the seventh pause or rest. Even the land was to be worked six years and on the seventh year to lie idle. We have the miraculous light of day in which to work and yet we have the night in which we are to rest from our labors. We need the prayer. US PAUSE.

To live victoriously we must not fear to live and live a calm balanced life. Back even in the first century A.D. people were most dismayed... beset by a thousand fears. Tax gatherers were despised, sinners were snubbed and kicked into the corner,

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They lived in the face of an hostile world and were like scarred animals.....fearing to live. We are prone to fear customs, what people say, and a thousand other things. (A stranger at church and a member shying him).

To all these fearful people Jesus tried to bring help. Life is still there with its possibilities...Jesus was saying, "Let the fearful walk out in the free grace of God and take possession of life."

Some people are more afraid to live than to die. Therefore they take their own lives. Things happen which seem to happen thru no fault of ours...Save money and bank fails...take up a profession and our health fails...Learn to be a phone operator and the dial system comes in and we lose our job, and we build our lives around some man and he dies. We look back and see our mistakes we made. Two roads lay before us and we took the wrong one....all this comes in to make us afraid.

People...people afraid drew near to Jesus to hear HIM. Jesus in the midst of fears and pains and all sorts of problems had religion to offer....a philosophy of life that encourages one to live.

A woman in much pain struggled till she wrote marvelously...persisted till she took a trip..She did not fear because at every step she felt a PRESENCE...later she looked upon every pain and handicap as a brake to slow her down. (To come closer we have a minister in North Miss. who has always hit three licks where one was all that was necessary. He recently fell out...forced to rest...health now is fine and it looks as if he has a new lease on life. TO LIVES THAT WERE AFRAID JESUS TALKED OF GOD...NOT A GOD OF CHANCE BUT ONE ALIVE AND SEEKING.

As Jesus spoke to people afraid, ~~the~~ the future became alive in their lives. Victorious living shone in their countenances.

Dr. Joseph Fort Newton tells a true story of the history of Tenn. Indians had raided a white settlement and carried away some white boys. Later after some years some members of the tribe were captured. There was a man most white. The officer asked mothers, who had lost boys, to come and sing childhood lullabies. As one mother sang this white man came forth and fell on her shoulders.

If the world can be like that..some one walking along the line bringing love back..and bringing dreams back on the wings of song why should people fear? God expresses His love

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through good people. With God and good people working together there should develop a type of life without fear... That will be victorious living....

Maybe our trouble is that we have to live with so many selves in the radius of our own being.

- a. The old self...old Adam
- b. The lonely self
- c. The sensitive self
- d. The anxious self.

With all these selves lined up in a room to look at you as you retire and meet your gaze when you wake is inclined to produce fear.

Let Christ in and He becomes man of the house and those selves run out and He gives the victory. Look yonder..down through the centuries comes that line of freed men into the Kingdom of God. And at the portal of that Kingdom their Statue of Liberty is a CROSS. It is the symbol of a dead past that is dead and a future that is in the creative hands of the Carpenter and re-builder of souls.

To the lonely He brings His daily presence.

To the sensitive He comes He comes with the assurances of a dignity that lies not in what people say but in fellowship with one who stooped under a stable door to light a fire on the hearth of the world.

To the anxious He enters with a peace that passeth understanding. This was seen in the face of an invalid man who ate little that his little girl might have orange juice and milk. As he died he hummed, "Onward Christian Soldiers and the light of Jesus shone in his eyes..a light seen neither on land or sea but in good peoples eyes.

To people who needed to live Jesus told of a boy who left home. The father was always standing in the dusk of the day looking for him...people would pass by and likely say..Poor old man.. But one evening a neighbor saw the silent lonely father open the gate..and he ran into the arms of a tramp..all day from the long road back to life...He had come home to live...

Do you want to live victoriously? Then come home to Jesus to LIVE....

LISTEN

I would not have my life be one of bliss
Untouched by heartache, agony despair...
A pale anemic thing. My nightly prayer
Is that with each new day I may not miss
High venturings, nor undeserve the hiss
Of envious human moles who never dare
To touch off rockets in their souls and flare
Above their deepening grooves. O grant me this:
That I shall scale life's peaks, explore its glooms
Know mountain ecstasies, deep valleyed pains...
That when my last red sands by time are sieved
And life has struck my sinews from her looms,
I shall have earned three wordso'er my remains
On this side "Was born" On the other "Died" and
Between..."He lived."

Oh God of the living be in
our hearts this day that we
may really ^{live} in the name of the
ever-living Christ we pray

