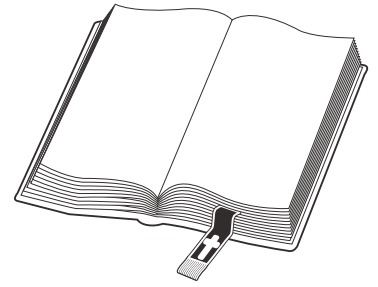


True Life Comes from Jesus

"I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life."

Psalm 119:93



Number 39 in the series "The Joy of Obeying God's Word"

Beloved, life without a close personal relationship with Jesus is *meaningless*, even for those who have health, wealth, and a successful career! The things of this world will never satisfy our soul, and worldly success ends at the grave. We cannot take it with us. It will not fit in our casket.

True life started for me when I repented of my sins and accepted Christ as my Savior. Since I became a believer, I have experienced the Lord transforming my life as I daily read and obey the Bible. There have been a lot of joys, tests, and trials since then, but I have constantly seen the faithfulness of my Lord as I surrendered my will to Him. Isaiah 55:8-9 tells me that God's thoughts and ways are different than mine. I have seen this over and over again. The Lord has not always answered my prayers the way I wanted or according to my time. However, I can say — and it has always proven true — that He knew what would bring glory to Him and would develop His character in me, conform me to His image, and enlarge the ministry to which He has called me.

Proverbs 8:34-36 reads, *"Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me finds life, and obtains favor from the Lord; but he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; all those who hate me love death."* Listening to my Lord, daily reading His Word, praying, sometimes fasting, surrendering my will to Him, and gratefully accepting that His plans, His ways, and His timing are always best. This

has brought countless blessings into my life. The times that I have given in to the desires of my flesh, gone my way, made my decisions apart from the Lord, and willfully sinned against Him have always brought death in my life. I thank God for 1 John 1:9 which reads, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

Beloved, I have failed many times in my Christian walk, but the Holy Spirit was faithful to convict me. He gave me His grace to humble myself and repent, and the Lord was faithful to forgive, cleanse, and restore me. Psalm 16:11 reads, *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore."* Before I surrendered my life to Jesus, I walked in a lot of paths that led to death. However, in the midst of life's trials, I have found that true life, true peace, true joy, true pleasure and fulfillment has come as I have daily spent time in the presence of Jesus Christ, building a close relationship with Him. How about you? Today is the day to surrender your life to Christ. He loves you. He died for you. Only He can give you true life.

— *Janice McBride*

All scripture is taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

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