

LIFE!
Easter, 2012

Jesus: *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”* John 10:10 (New International Version)

● **Question: WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY “LIFE”?**

This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, . . . ²⁰ . . . that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life. Deuteronomy 30:19-20b (NIV)

God is life and when we choose God, we choose life.

. . . this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.” John 17:3 (New Living Translation)

“Life” = knowing God, choosing God

And you, who were dead in your trespasses . . . God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14 (ESV)

Jesus: *“I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. ²⁶Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.”* John 11:25-26a (NLT)

And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. Romans 8:10-11a (NLT)

● **Question: WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY “LIFE TO THE FULL” AND WHAT KEEPS BELIEVERS FROM EXPERIENCING IT?**

“Life to the full” = A spiritually rich and fulfilling life, overflowing with joy, contentment, power over sin and love

Three “Weights” that keep Christians From Experiencing “Life to the Full”

○ The weight of sin

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. 1 Peter 2:11 (NLT)

See also Romans 6:11-14.

○ The weight of purposelessness

God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (Good News Translation)

○ The weight of damaged relationships

See Romans 12:9-21.

- Action: 1) Restore the relationships you can restore.
2) Establish and protect healthy relationships in the future.

○ What weight affects “life to the full” for you? _____

How can I cooperate with God to lift that weight? _____