



When Christ Calls a Man

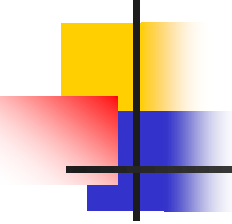
He bids him come and die.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Life After Death

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I LIVE, yet NOT I , but Christ living in me. And the life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loves me and gave Himself for me. Gal 2:20



How do you know you are TOO “undead?”

- The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

How Do You Know You are Dead?



- **Galatians 5:22-23 (New American Standard Bible)**
- ²²But (A)the fruit of the Spirit is (B)love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
- ²³gentleness, (C)self-control; against such things (D)there is no law.



Here is the process

2 Cor 12:9-10

- ⁹And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for **(R)**power is perfected in weakness " Most gladly, therefore, I will rather **(S)**boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.
- ¹⁰Therefore **(I)**I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with **(U)**distresses, with **(V)**persecutions, with **(W)**difficulties, **(X)**for Christ's sake; for **(Y)**when I am weak, then I am strong.



Here is the example

- Matthew 26:39
- ³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”



Here is the promise: 1 Cor 10:13

- ¹³ No temptation^[a] has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted^[b] beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted,^[c] he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.



Here is the Purpose 2 Cor. 4

- But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. ⁸ We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰ We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.



Purpose

- For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. ¹² So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.



Purpose

- It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.”^[b] Since we have that same spirit of^[c] faith, we also believe and therefore speak,¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.¹⁵ All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.



Purpose

- Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.



In the Flesh

- All we can do is manage and cope with the issues and situations and weaknesses and problems that beset us and hope for more good days and bad days



At the Cross

- The power they have over us dies. We quit managing and start trusting.
- And finally, God can work in us and through us.
- Sometimes we are right about the issues, but wrong in our attitudes, motives and actions.



At the Cross

- God has to change us before He can change the things around us.
- And he can't change us unless we are willing to let go of our right to be right, or vindicated or safe, or respected or repaid or restored or praised or appreciated or provided for, and go to the cross.



Stop – Look - Listen

- STOP doing the fleshly behavior
- LOOK at yourself, your attitude, your reaction, your action
- LISTEN for the Holy Spirit – If you were truly Crucified and DEAD, living by faith in the Son of God, how would that change your response and your next action?