

God's Life...in us

*In him was **life** and the **life** was the light of men.*

John 1.4

God's Life in us

“To *live* is the rarest thing in the world.
Most people *exist*, that is all.”

~ Oscar Wilde

So because the days are long,
but the years are short,
are you living or merely existing?

God's Life in us

“What's wrong with me?”

I mean, I don't have a bad marriage...

My children are not terribly selfish...

My job isn't that stressful...

I really don't have that much to complain about...

so why does my life seem so empty?

God's Life in us

“What’s wrong with me?”

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God's Life in us

What does *merely existing* look like?

The Realm of the “Double Negative”

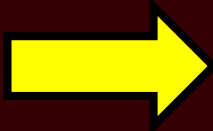
$$(-)(-) = (+)$$

math

God's Life in us

What does *merely existing* look like?

The Realm of the "Double Negative"

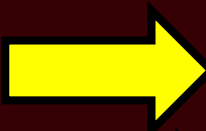
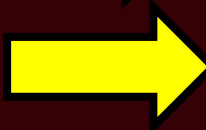

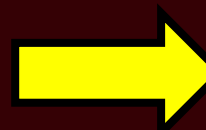

$(-)(-)$  $(+)$

life

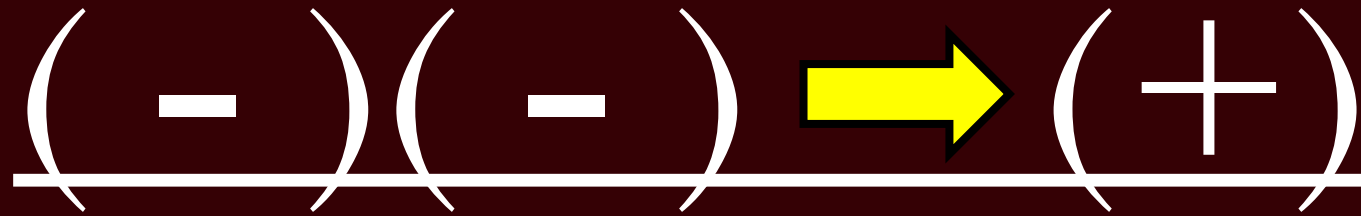
God's Life in us

The Realm of the "Double Negative"

We **don't** even realize we're living in this **realm**:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Don't be sedentary |  | <i>Go for a walk</i> |
| Don't eat junk food |  | <i>Eat healthy</i> |
| Don't buy on impulse |  | <i>Budget your finances</i> |
| Don't get divorced |  | <i>Love your spouse</i> |
| Don't do drugs |  | <i>Be filled with the Spirit</i> |

God's Life in us



Rom 6.11...consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. *(For every look at your sin, take FIVE looks at your Savior)*

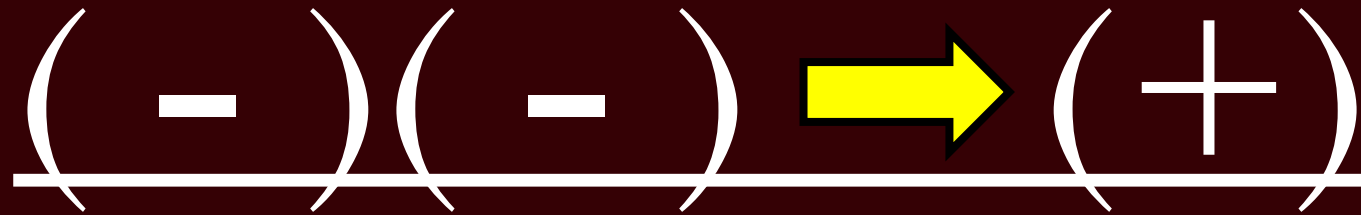
So easy to focus on what's wrong...talk radio/politics 

“People should **stop** being so **negative**.” 

Disney Movies? – no right, no wrong, no rules for me! 

“I **don't dislike** being around her.” 

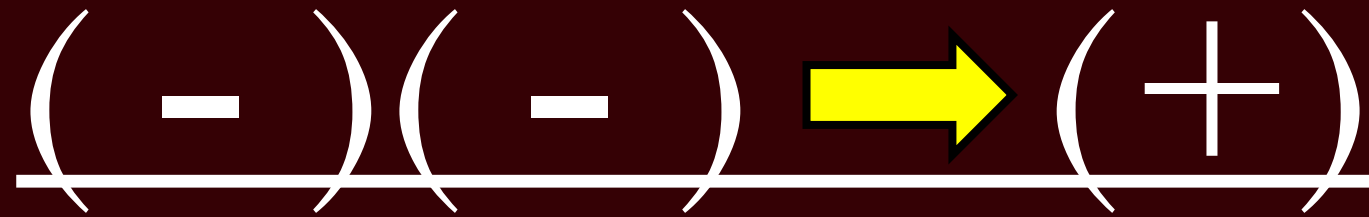
God's Life in us



Heb 4.15...For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

It's not that “double negative” concepts are not Biblical... just that they are meant to lead you to the greater positive.

God's Life in us



Double negative living is not only **empty** but potentially **harmful** as well.

“Why can't you be more like your sister?”

God's Life in us

1. How can I become more alive than I am?

2. What is the connection between physical life and spiritual life?

3. What is God's purpose for "interruptions"?

God's Life in us

Can I become **more alive** than I am?

Yes – but HOW?

Hugh Jackman (Wolverine, Jean Valjean, P. T. Barnum):

Greatest Showman - ***Come Alive***

God's Life in us

Come Alive

You stumble through your days
Got your head hung low
Your skies' a shade of grey
Like a zombie in a maze
You're asleep inside
But **you can** shake awake

God's Life in us

Come Alive

'cause you're just a dead man walking
Thinking that's your only option
But **you can** flip the switch and
brighten up your darkest day
Sun is up and the color's blinding
Take the world and redefine it
Leave behind your narrow mind
You'll never be the same

God's Life in us

Come Alive

Come alive, come alive
Go and ride your light
Let it burn so bright
Reaching up to the sky
And it's open wide
You're electrified

God's Life in us

Is this Biblical?

Why or why not?

(Hint: "*You can*"...*but can you?*)

God's Life in us

Ephesians 2.1-5

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved

God's Life in us

The Greatest Irony — it's never enough

All the shine of a thousand spotlights
All the stars we steal from the night sky
Will never be enough
Never be enough
Towers of gold are still too little
These hands could hold the world but it'll
Never be enough
Never be enough

God's Life in us

The Greatest Irony — it's never enough

All the shine of a thousand spotlights
All the stars we steal from the night sky
Will never be enough

Jesus, You are all I need!

Never be enough
Never be enough

God's Life in us

Can I become **more alive** than I am?

Yes – but HOW?

~~Hugh Jackman: *Come Alive*~~

Holy Spirit: *Spiritual Life in Christ*

God's Life in us

John 3.1-16

*Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus,
a ruler of the Jews.*

*This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi,
we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one
can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."*

*Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is
born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

God's Life in us

John 3.1-16

*Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be **born** when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be **born**?"*

*Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.*

*That which is **born** of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born** of the Spirit is spirit.*

God's Life in us

John 3.1-16

*Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be **born again**.'*

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes.

*So it is with everyone who is **born of the Spirit**."*

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

God's Life in us

John 3.1-16

*Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know,
and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not
receive our testimony.*

*If I have told you earthly things [physical] and you do not believe,
how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things [spiritual]?*

*No one has ascended into heaven except he who
descended from heaven, the Son of Man.*

God's Life in us

John 3.1-16

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have **eternal life**.*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life**.*

God's Life in us

What do you think is causing
Nicodemus' confusion?

Might we have the same issue?

God's Life in us

When you hear the word *life*,
do you automatically think:

➤ Physical Life

or

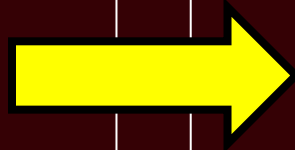
➤ Spiritual Life

God's Life in us

What if everything about our *physical* lives are meant to point us to a greater *spiritual* reality?

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

Food

the Bread of Life (*John 6.35*)

Water

the Living Water (*John 4.14*)

Marriage

the Bridegroom (*John 3.29*)

Creation

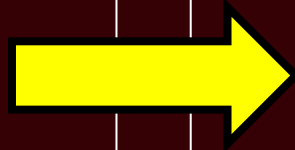
the heavens declare (*Ps 19.1*)

Life

the living Father (*John 6.57*)

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

Food

Water

Marriage

Creation

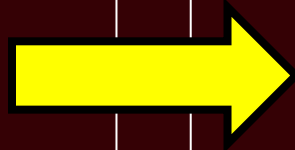
Life

(John 6.35)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

(John 4.14)

Food

Water

Marriage

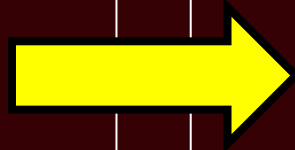
Creation

Life

“but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

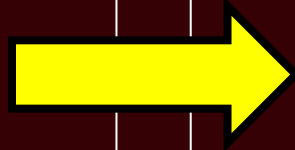
Food
Water
Marriage
Creation
Life

(John 3.29)

The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice.

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

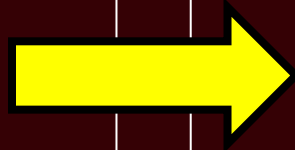
Food
Water
Marriage
Creation
Life

(Ps 19.1)

The heavens declare the
glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims
his handiwork.

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

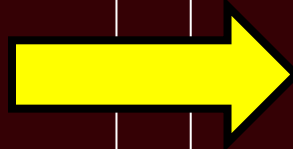
Food
Water
Marriage
Creation
Life

(John 6.57)

As the **living Father** sent me,
and I live because of the Father,
so whoever feeds on me, he also
will live because of me.

God's Life in us

Physical



Spiritual

Lack of Food —
hunger...always avoid?
(physical hunger should point us...)

Lack of Water —
thirst...always avoid?
(physical thirst should point us...)

Mt 5.6...Blessed are those
who **hunger** and **thirst** for
righteousness, for they shall
be satisfied.

Ps 63.1...earnestly
I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you.

God's Life in us

The question is **where will we look**
when we are hungry or thirsty?

Ps 63.1,3...O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and
weary land where there is no water.

Because **your steadfast love is better than life**...

Rev 22.17...The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come."
...and let the **one who is thirsty** come; let the one who desires
take the water of life without price.

God's Life in us

The question is **where will we look**
when we are hungry or thirsty?

Jer 2.13...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, **the fountain of living waters**, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, **broken cisterns** that can hold no water.

Heb 12.1-2...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith

God's Life in us

Looking **at...**

My joy is a function of my circumstances

Life is something that happens to me

"I am a victim"

The broken cisterns are external

God's Life in us

Looking in...

My joy is a function of my mood

Life is something I make happen_(you can)

“Are we having fun yet?”

The broken cisterns are internal

God's Life in us

Looking to...

My joy is a function of God's grace

Life is something that happens by faith

"All I have is Christ... Jesus is my life"

The broken cisterns are no longer

God's Life in us

What will you look to?

Ps 121.1-2...I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

God's Life in us

Physically Alive

Spiritually Alive

Beating heart

(involuntary)



Love of Jesus is
beating in us

Breathing lungs

(involuntary or voluntary?)



Life of the Spirit is
breathing in us

Awareness

(voluntary)



Light of the Father is
shining through us

God's Life in us

Life in the Spirit of God:
Voluntary or Involuntary?

God's Life in us

Life in the Spirit of God:
Voluntary *and* Involuntary!

2 Cor 3.18...*And we all, with unveiled face,
beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed
into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

God's Life in us

John 17.3

And this is *eternal life*,
that they know you,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

God's Life in us

Knowing

- A few **minutes** to know a **fact**
- A **lifetime** to know a **person**
- An **eternity** to know an **infinite God**

God's Life in us

Knowing

We often try to better understand something by breaking it down into smaller parts:

- Biology: *the cell*
- Physics: *the atom*
- Life?

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios	Psyche	Zoë

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios		
body		
born with		
temporal		
outward shell		
Biology		

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios	Psyche	
body	soul	
born with	born with	
temporal	eternal	
outward shell	personality	
Biology	Psychology	

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios	Psyche	Zoë
body	soul	spirit
born with	born with	Not born with
temporal	eternal	eternal
outward shell	personality	God's life
Biology	Psychology	Theology

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios

Physical

Love: eros

Luke 8.14

*cares and riches and
pleasures of life*

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios	Psyche	
Physical	Relational	
Love: eros	Love: philia	
<u><i>Luke 8.14</i></u> <i>cares and riches and pleasures of life</i>	<u><i>Matthew 16.25</i></u> <i>whoever would save his life will lose it</i>	

God's Life in us

human beings - life

Bios	Psyche	Zoë
Physical	Relational	Spiritual
Love: eros	Love: philia	Love: agape
<u>Luke 8.14</u> <i>cares and riches and pleasures of <u>life</u></i>	<u>Matthew 16.25</u> <i>whoever would save his <u>life</u> will lose it</i>	<u>John 20.31</u> <i>by believing you may have <u>life</u> in his name</i>

God's Life in us

God's life in us: the **ABILITY** to...

Participate with God in the
“life giving” process
with words and actions that provide
encouragement and hope!

God's Life in us

God's life in us: the ABILITY to...

Embrace a theology
of *holy interruption*

God's Life in us

God's life in us: the ABILITY to...

Luke 10.33

*But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had **compassion**.*

God's Life in us

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

We must allow ourselves to be *interrupted* by God. God will be constantly crossing our paths and cancelling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions. We may pass them by, preoccupied with our more important tasks...

God's Life in us

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

It is a strange fact that Christians and even ministers frequently consider their work so important and urgent that they will allow nothing to disturb them. They think they are doing God a service in this, but actually they are distaining God's 'crooked yet straight path'.

God's Life in us

Joseph Tenney

Bonhoeffer's point of concern isn't so extreme.

It's quite simple:

The Christian's job is to *listen to God* and
care about what God says above all else,
in every moment.

God's Life in us

Joseph Tenney

Interruption is God's invitation.

God is inviting us to see him all around us,
in the lives of others, in our conversations,
in our serving those in need.

God's Life in us

Joseph Tenney

Interruption is not simply a matter of our developing patience; *it's about experiencing true life*. It is one of God's ways of waking us up to what's around us to see there's more to be done than our self-appointed tasks for the day, as important as they may seem.

God's Life in us

C.S. Lewis

“The great thing, if one can, is to stop regarding all the unpleasant things as interruptions of one's ‘own’, or ‘real’ life. The truth is of course that what one calls the *interruptions are precisely one's real life — the life God is sending one day by day.*

Introduction to God's Life

Question for discussion:

What might your life look like if you were able to recognize “interruptions” as God's Life?