



Reigning in Life

Life is an experience like no other. It is a journey in which its experiences vary from individual to individual. The one thing we all agree in no matter what sex, sexual orientation, race, culture, age, color, or nationality is that we all experience pain and suffering in life. For this reason, many people believe having a difficult life is normal or necessary for growth, discipline, or gain.

Do you know of anyone whose life is characterized as going from sorrow to sorrow, from loss to loss, from lack to lack, and from sickness to sickness? You might be thinking, "That's just about everyone I know." It seems as if all these things reign over many people's life.

- Joyner, that's life!

Well, let me be the one to tell you, that is not the life Jesus came to bring, neither is it the will of God. Yes, all the natural things, like the second law of thermodynamics states, are going from order to disorder. But this is only true if there is no supernatural intervention to regenerate what is degenerating.

An interesting viewpoint made by a well known preacher:

- "Do you find life too difficult for you? So did we, but not now, with the amplitudes of grace there are for us in Jesus Christ, it grows satisfying and successful and exciting beyond measure, becomes another and a richer thing." – **Arthur John Gossip**

God is the giver of the gift of life – Jesus Christ. Through Him, God has a grandiose purpose for you; a life of fulfillment; and an enriched destiny. The will of God for your life, as a believer in Christ, is to go from glory to glory in every sense and aspect. He is on your side and has your best interest at heart. So don't think that God is the conductor of any evil, trial, or temptation that you are going through; neither did He allow the pain and suffering in your life. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is time to find this divine enrichment in life knowing Jesus came to save you, preserve you, and prosper you because He took on life's inevitable so your inevitable place is to reign in life.

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.

According to this verse, you are destined to reign over all your difficulties and have an exceedingly, abundant, and overflowing life. Paul goes on to show the only way to reign in life:

- Receive the abundance of grace offered through Jesus Christ
- Receive the gift of righteousness offered through Jesus Christ

Notice that this life described here is the opposite of every death Adam's sin produced. If you can recall, Adam lived in a perfect world before the fall - no disease, no poverty, no calamity, and no chaos. Everything was provided for him and to him by our Father God. But unfortunately, Adam sinned and everything changed.

But don't be bummed, because my Bible also says that if by the one man's offense (Adam) many died, **much more** the **grace** of God and the **gift** by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to **many**. This is the life Jesus came to bring us.

Romans 4:4

Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

The problem is that the majority of today's believers in Christ try to work to obtain Grace and perform in order to become righteous; when in fact, these two truths are only received apart from your performance, effort and works.

This is where the majority of believers in Christ have it wrong. Picture a hamster on a wheel. Would you say that the hamster's work is counted as debt and not as grace? Definitely, because as hard as the hamster works, it will never reach the goal, never reach its “destination”, never arrive. It will always labor in vain, never being able to see increase or gain. It will never go from glory to glory. Now, the hamster knows that, so it gets off the wheel. Have you?

Romans 4:5

But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.

The truth is, you no longer have to jump through religious hoops to obtain grace or perform enough good deeds daily to become righteous because Jesus at the cross fulfilled every demand from God, so, today, you can just receive His unmerited favor (grace) and His righteousness as a gift. It is no longer through your obedience.

Romans 5:19

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Righteousness is a product of the one man's obedience - Christ. (not yours!) Whatever you receive as a gift remains a gift. Whatever you obtain through your labor, is maintained by your labor. It is easy as that. This is why you can never lose your righteousness because it was never given to you through your worth or value. It was a gift. It was all up to Jesus to maintain the righteousness you received from Him because He labored for it. And guess what? He labored for it perfectly! Now, God is righteous in making the sinner righteous! This is how you will reign in life.

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