

## LIVING FOR ETERNITY

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While working up a sweat at the gym the other day, I saw a sign posted on the wall that read, “Life is not about finding yourself. It’s about making yourself.” Well, that’s all fine and dandy, especially in a gym. I understand the slogan is meant to encourage us to try harder to reach our personal goals. However, when I read it I was immediately struck with the thought that we would be arrogant enough to think life is all about us making ourselves. Sure, we make decisions and plans and choose the direction for our life, but that’s not what life is about, right? Surely not. It was then that God whispered, “Life is about being made new.”

Being made new is much more than having a fresh start. Paul described this experience as being quickened, or brought to life in a way one has never been living before. When Adam and Eve fell and sin entered into the nature of man, we all became “dead men walking,” for lack of a better term. However, when we are made new by the infilling of God’s Spirit and the life His Word brings to us, our souls become “quickened” or rescued from the depraved nature we once lived in. It’s as if the part of our being that was closed off, dark, and dormant is now newly renovated, enlightened, and vibrant.

When we falsely believe our being is wrapped up in achieving the next goal, getting the next promotion, and acquiring the next luxury, then we have completely lost sight of eternity. When we allow God to make us new by being born again of the water and the Spirit, we experience freedom from the prison of our mortality. It is then that our souls are brought to new life and we can live beyond our short 80–90 years here on earth.

I heard a quote once, and I’m not sure of its origin, but it goes, “You don’t have a soul; you are a soul that has a body.” Reread that and let it sink in. Before we knew Christ, we thought in carnal terms—fleshly needs and desires—but now that we’re born again, we think and operate with the mind of the Spirit. We come to the understanding that our being is wrapped up in our souls, not our bodies.

We are souls dwelling in fleshly bodies. This five-foot frame of mine will fail me one day. I will still be living, but not in my human body. Our souls are eternal, and if we really believe this is true, we should focus much more on the inward man than the outward man. When we concentrate on what is going to last forever, our priorities change drastically. Think about what captures your attention most of the time throughout the day. Does it have eternal value? Will it last as long as your soul? Please don’t misunderstand me. I am not at all saying we should abandon our jobs and responsibilities, but I am reminding you to evaluate the attention you give to eternity. Think about your free time. How much of it is spent on eternal things? Think about your family, friends, and coworkers. They are eternal—how much time do you invest in their souls?

I urge you to take a moment and pray about your time, priorities, and direction. Ask God to use you to reach the souls around you that you may take them in eternity with you. Pray that He will help you turn your eyes from worthless things and set your heart towards eternity.

“For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:8).