

THE ZOE LIFE

John 10:10

The Zoë life is God's prescription and provision for the abundance that He promised through Christ. New Testament scripture originally written in Greek is richer in diversity and complexities of vocabulary and meaning than the English language. For instance, there are three Greek words which English translation described as "*life*" and their meanings are different. They are *bios* (physical life), *psuche* (psychological life) and *Zoe* (uncreated, divine and eternal life – the life of God). It is this last one that is used in our text and the focus of our study today.

We shall consider three subtopics:

1. Dimensions of expression of the Zoe life
2. Defeated life of weak and carnal Christians
3. The transformational increase and potentials of God's life in man

1. Dimensions of expressions of the Zoe life

John 10:10, 4:13-14, 17:3, 3:5-6, 1:12, 1 John 5:11, 1 Corinthians 1:30, 2:14, 15

Zoe life is the life of God in man. It is a gift from God through Christ to all who repent and receives Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour John 4:13-14. It is described and defined as "*knowing God*" John 17:3. Zoe is the essential and ethical life, life on the highest plane that we receive by the virtue of our pardon for sins and justification by God. It is to prevent our relapse into those things that God delivered us from. The Holy Spirit is the "*midwife*" of Zoe in man John 3:5, 6. He implants it into our spirit when we receive Christ John 1:12. Salvation experience makes God's life come into us with its great potentials for manifestation of God's nature, power and authority. If allowed to blossom, we have through it, a full expression of heavenly life on earth and enjoyment of the same.

God has given us Zoe and this Zoe is in His Son, whoever has the Son have Zoe, whoever has not God's Son has not Zoe 1 John 5:11. This implies that guidance and direction that will give a man the best in this life and bring him to heaven eventually at the end of his earthly life can only be found in Christ and the Zoe that we have through His presence in us. Zoe in a converted believer is a repository of wisdom, self control, spiritual and physical health and healing, intellectual greatness, marital success, psychological strength and relational profit. A normal baby has all it takes to become a great and remarkable adult present in its small body at birth. This is the story of what the presence of Zoe means in the new convert. Zoe's increase and abundance in us is associated with increasing fruitfulness and productivity.

No natural, unregenerate man or unbeliever have Zoe. He does not even understand it. It appears silly to him. Zoe life can only be appreciated, supported and encouraged by

another of its kind. Hence, we are warned against unequal yokes with unbelievers in friendship, business and marriage.

2. Defeated life of weak and carnal Christians

John 10:10, Romans 8:5-6, 13, 1 John 3:5-6, James 1:15, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 20

If every born again Christian have Zoe with its associated potentials for greatness, why do some “*born again*” Christians live in bondage of fear and doubts, enslaved by besetting sins? Our test provided the answer. A man may have Zoe but be lacking in its abundance. Zoe exists in measures. Its presence can be arithmetic or exponential. The word “*abundantly*”, (perissos in Greek) means to exceed a number, measure, rank or need. It means over and above, more than necessary and superadded.

Jesus came so that we can have overflowing spiritual life, health and vitality; more than enough, reaching and influencing every part of our life – our soul, mind will, emotions, intellect; influencing every part and aspect of our physical body and physical life, including our secular work, professional life, finances and relationships. It makes us carriers of divine presence, power and glory; by it we become ambassadors of God’s kingdom with mandate from heaven and the power and authority of in-dwelling Christ wherever we find ourselves.

Sin is toxic and poisonous to the Zoe life. Any aspect of our lives that admits, incubated and tolerates sin will quickly loose divine influence the same way a human cell or tissue becomes deprived of oxygenated blood when its flow is obstructed or compromised James 1:15. That part of our life begins to die and it may quickly spread to other parts. Besides, dwindling faith levels, surrounding ourselves with negative influences, keeping bad companies, living with bitterness and unforgiveness, sense of shame and guilt over past mistakes and failures, lack of integrity and sound morality are part of reasons why many Christians remain stunted in spiritual growth and expression or demonstration of the victory that abundant life in Christ provides. It does not have to be so.

3. Transformational increase and potentials of God’s life in man

John 10:10, Galatians 6:7-8, Galatians 5:16, 22-23, 1 Timothy 6:12, John 10:28-29, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20,

Our text revealed that Zoe life in man exists in measures. Galatians 6:8 revealed that it can diminish or become totally obliterated. Therefore its possession requires scripture-prescribed care and attention so that it can grow and yield harvest of abundance. “*Sow*’ (speiro) in this Galatians epistle reference refers to investment of time and life. We must be prepared to invest quality time, energy and resources in its nurture. Those who invest these in living self-pleasing, carnal life of ungodly pleasure and spiritual indifference shall reap rottenness (phtheiro) but those who invest them in the things that are spiritual shall have Zoe and abundance of its benefits.

Salvation in Christ is not a one item gift but a “*battery*” of possibilities wrapped together in a pack and presented to us. In it we have all that is sufficient to increasingly transform every area of our lives. In it we do not only find power for sustained victory over sin and daily walk in holiness, we also have grace for fruitful service, healthy body and healing, sound finances and successful relationship of every kind. Through Zoe in us we actualize the power of love, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self control Galatians 5:22-23. Paul in 1Timothy 6:12 admonished us to “*take hold*” of eternal life i.e. to be conscious of it, take interest in it, obtain it, seize it, grasp it, hold on to it tenaciously, savour and enjoy all that it offers in this world and in the world to come. Zoe instils confidence, peace and rest in adversity and in prosperity John 10:28-29. By it we advance from glory to glory.

Deepening relationship with God and with Christ is the key to abundant Zoe promised in our text. It is not enough to say Jesus died for me. I must find out what this means in my personal life and daily experiences. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 revealed that my mind, eyes, ears, mouth, hands and legs are no longer mine. Absolute surrender, consecration and commitment by which Jesus thinks through our minds, speaks through our mouth, sees through our eyes, walks to places with our legs and blesses people through our hands brings us into full realization of the potentials of the Zoe life that God offers to us through Christ John 3:16. It is the primary determinant of the differences in levels of spiritual growth and maturity by different believers. It makes the difference in the potentials for release and operations of God’s power through us and the extent of our exploits in the kingdom.

When we give Jesus His rightful place in our life, Holy Spirit takes over and does the rest; He continuously and steadily transforms us into the image of Christ and makes power available to us to accomplish all that God ordained for our lives. Absolute surrender and consistent walk in the Spirit is the secret of attaining and retaining the abundant life that Christ promised.