

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

God Wants us to Live

Do you ever feel like God has given up on you? Have you said to yourself, “if God wants me around, then why is living so unpleasant?” Maybe you think you’ve made so many mistakes that God no longer wants to save you. Or, maybe you wonder if he ever wanted you around in the first place. You may be surprised to learn that many other people have thought the same thing about themselves. In fact, numerous men of God thought this way at one point or another. For example, here’s what the author of Ecclesiastes said:

Ecclesiastes 2:17

So I hated life, because what is done under the sun was grievous to me, for all is vanity and a striving after wind.

Some prophets found living so miserable and pointless that they wished they were dead. Here’s what Jonah said:

Jonah 4:3

Therefore now, O LORD [YHWH], please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.

Even Moses, who frequently spoke to God face to face, sometimes fell into this kind of despair. He made a similar request:

Numbers 11:15

If you will treat me like this, kill me at once, if I find favor in your sight, that I may not see my wretchedness.

(see also: Genesis 30:1)

So, even righteous men can fall into this kind of thinking, going so far as to ask God to put them out of their misery. However, God did not grant Jonah or Moses their requests. God wanted them to live. Why was that? Was it just because they were prophets? Or does God want all of us to live? Let's see what the Scriptures say.

God started the human race with the intent that we would all have life:

Genesis 2:8-9

And the LORD [YHWH] God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD [YHWH] God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

God put us right next to the tree of life. There was a second tree in the garden, one that would bring about death, and God warned us not to eat from that tree:

Genesis 2:16-17

And the LORD [YHWH] God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Now, we ate from this tree of death anyway. So, what did God do? Did he just leave us to die? No! He continued to teach us how to live. At Sinai, God made a covenant, writing in stone the commands that lead to life so that they would be available for all to hear and obey:

Deuteronomy 30:16

If you obey the commandments of the LORD [YHWH] your God that I command you today, by loving the LORD [YHWH] your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, **then you shall live** and multiply, and the LORD [YHWH] your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

Proverbs 7:1-2

My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you; **keep my commandments and live**; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye.

Luke 10:25-28

And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**"

God wanted everyone to have access to the words of life. He kept insisting on giving life to humanity, even though they kept pursuing things that lead to death. He constantly provided a way for us to live, and he is still providing that to us today. Today, we have his word available to us like never before. As time has gone on, God has made it easier and easier to access the words of life. He wants us to live now just as much as he did then.

Now, you might say, "I've been disobedient toward God. I've broken his law, which leads to death. So, God doesn't want me to live; I'm a sinner, and he wants me to die." However, nothing could be further

from the truth. Death is the natural consequence of sin, but God wants to forgive our sins and save our lives. God declares his intentions for the sinner in the book of Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 18:23

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD [YHWH], and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Ezekiel 18:32

“For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone,” declares the Lord GOD [YHWH]; “so turn, and live.”

YHWH makes similar comments in Malachi; in fact, there he explains that he wants us to live even though we’ve been constantly sinning from day one:

Malachi 3:6-7

For I the LORD [YHWH] do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD [YHWH] of hosts...

Peter says something very similar:

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

God does not want us to die, even though we have failed, even though we have betrayed him, even though we might deserve it. He has been pleading with us to live since the moment we were created and he warned us about the deadly tree. He gave his word to us over and over again through his prophets, so that we would listen to it and live. He takes no pleasure in our destruction. In fact, he is so insistent that we should live that he sent his own son to save us:

John 3:16-17

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him

Christ came so that we would not perish, but instead be saved. After Christ returns, he’s going to do away with death forever:

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

1 Corinthians 15:54

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

So, God wants us to live. Even though we have stumbled and fallen, he still wants us to be on our feet. Even though we have failed, he still wants us to succeed. Even though we have fallen ill, he wants us to be healthy. And even though we have betrayed him, he still wants us on his side. The question is, do you

want to live? Will you align your values with God's, and see your life as the divine gift that it really is? There are many things that can make us think less of our own life. Losing our job, being abandoned by our friends, having regret over our past mistakes—all of these things can make us dread our own future. But God tells us that there is a bright future ahead. It is not a future that we or any man can create. In fact, it is not even a future that we can imagine. It's a future that God himself is bringing about:

1 Corinthians 2:9

What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him.

So, if you're ever wondering what God is doing, where he's taking you, or why your life is the way it is, just remember: he has amazing things planned, and he wants you to live.

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminatoTodo.net

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/119Ministries#](https://twitter.com/119Ministries#)