

From the West Meadow
Pastor Wes Higgins

Throughout the course of history, God has at numerous times offered mankind life. Not just physical life—that was given at creation. The life God has offered mankind at various times is a life that is abundant and fulfilled. Jesus Christ said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

This abundant, full life was first offered to Adam and Eve. Everyone knows the story of Eve being beguiled by the snake to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which led to death. Few seem to remember that there were two special trees in the Garden, the second being the Tree of Life of which Adam and Eve could have freely eaten. In doing so, they would have been given life, abundant, fulfilling life walking hand in hand as it were with God leading and guiding them. Had they eaten of the Tree of Life they would have received the implanting of the word, which James wrote “...is able to save your souls” (ref. James 1:21). Hebrews 8:7-13 implies that this implanting of the word in a life-long relationship with God produces in mankind the very heart and mind of God. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” (John 14:6)

God again offered life when He brought Israel out of Egypt, out of slavery, leading them through the sea and through the desert right up to the mountain, where He gave them His life-giving law. What a blessing God had given them: a calling to walk with Him and be His special people (Deuteronomy 14:2). God told Israel, “...therefore, choose life.” (Deuteronomy 30:19)

But a fault was found in them—in Israel, not in God’s perfect law (Hebrews 8:8). Like Adam and Eve, they didn’t have the heart to choose life (Deuteronomy 29:4).

All of that changed with the coming of the Lamb, the Son of God. “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” (Hebrews 1:1-2), who came that we may have life.

God once again offered mankind life—rich, abundant life—in the form of a New Covenant, purchased and sealed by the blood of the true Lamb, Jesus Christ. Not only has God again offered life, but this time He has offered it with a “Helper...the Spirit of Truth...(who) dwells with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17) This Helper, the Holy Spirit sent by the Father in Jesus’ name, will teach the things of God and help those who are taught to remember Christ’s words (John 14:26). And the Holy Spirit not only teaches, but guides those who have been given life (John 16:13), that it might be in their minds and written on their hearts.

What does this life God is offering look like? Hebrews 8, verse 10: “I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” Life looks like “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27)

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West Meadow Ministries
Celebration Church of God
celebrationchurchofGod.org