

Life and Faith

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I. The need to study—2Tim 2:15; 3:16-17; 2Co 10:5

II. The uses of “Life” in scripture¹

- A. Parallel—the quotations from Gen 15:6 in the NT and the subject of justification
 - 1. Before God-the unseen—Rom 4:3; Gal 3:6
 - 2. Outward manifestation or consequences in view—Ja 2:23-24
- B. Life—two senses
 - 1. Life in the subjective-inner life-the unseen condition of the heart
 - 2. Life objectively-outward manifestation or consequences in view—Rom 5:18 speaks of a justification of life
- C. Dead in two senses—both condemn the person
 - 1. Dead in the inner heart-depravity of nature in which the sinner is blind to the light of the gospel—John 6:65, 44; 3:3
 - 2. Dead in his outer life—John 3:19-21

III. Spiritual Life Precedes Faith

- A. Life *from the Spirit* precedes faith
 - 1. It is the moving cause
 - 2. The result is immediate
- B. This producing of a new life is called a “new birth.”—Jn 3:3, 5; Tit 3:5
 - 1. Hence, it must precede all possible effects of having life including faith.
 - 2. Also, its effects are not superfluous. They MUST follow.
 - 3. That is, some change in life is as necessary as if faith—Matt 13:1-9, 18-23
 - 4. The perfect tense, “has been born of God,” in 1John
 - a. Consequence=faith—1Jn 5:1
 - b. Consequence=love—1Jn 4:7
 - c. Consequence=doing righteousness—1Jn 2:29
 - i. He is our inner righteousness—1Cor 1:30
 - 5. In Jn 1:11-12, of those who believe, it says, “who WERE born,” an aorist.
 - a. Greek 5043. teknon, tek'-non; from the base of Grk 5098; a child (as produced):-child, daughter, son.
 - b. We are children of God through the new birth.
- C. An alleged verse to the contrary—Gal 3:26
 - 1. Greek 5207. huios, hwee-os'; appar. a prim. word; a "son" (sometimes of animals), used very widely of immed., remote or fig. kinship:-child, foal, son.
 - a. Sonship emphasizes inheritance and is used of adoption. We are sons by faith or even faithfulness.
 - 2. We are called sons (huios) in ROM 8:14, 19
 - a. We are even called sons (huios) of Abraham, if we have faith(fulness)—Gal 3:7

¹ Expanded and modified from C. D. Cole, Which Comes First In Conversion—Life or Faith?, Free Grace Broadcaster, Issue 140, April 1992. His distinction of subjective vs. judicial requires expansion. It is life itself vs. the consequences both practical and judicial.

- b. Sons of light and of the day (huios)—1TH 5:5
- 3. Israel in fulfillment is called sons (huios)—Rom 9:26 -27
- 4. The unregenerate as they live out their evil are called sons (huios) of a different sort—EPH 2:2; 5:6; Col 3:6
- 5. The antichrist—the (huios) of perdition—2TH 2:3

IV. The manifestation of the Life of Christ Follows Faith—Men need to come to Christ to have (a changed) life—Jn 5:40

- A. Life more abundantly
 - 1. The abundant life—Jn 10:10
 - 2. The Spirit shed abundantly—Tit 3:6
 - 3. This is the core of the issue on the “Lordship” gospel
- B. This life is called “eternal life” when judicial issues are stressed—Jn 3:15-16; 5:24; Rom 5:1
- C. Requires the preaching about Christ—Rom 10:14-17
 - 1. Christ as the risen Lord brings justification to the believer—Rom 4:25; 10:9-10
 - 2. Christ as risen Lord brings judgment on the unsaved—At 17:30-31

V. Effects of this Study

- A. Shows the place of the new birth (Calvinism)
- B. Shows the importance of the so called “Lordship” gospel
- C. Shows the place of “eternal life” and judgment