

Introduction:

- *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep."* (John 10:10-11, NLT)
- A number of years ago Kelly and I took the boys to Titusville to skydive, to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. We did what was called a tandem-jump. In other words you are jumping out of a perfectly good plane without a parachute! But you are fastened to a professional skydiver who does have one. That connection makes all the difference in how well your jump goes! Faith is involved. You have to trust the person you are fastened too. You have to trust the connection of your gear to their gear. Life is like skydiving! It makes all the difference who you are connected too. Faith makes that connection. And that connection makes all the difference in how well your life goes! Three things we will look at: Establish Your Connection, Live Out Of Your Connection, Jump Out

I. Establish Your Connection

- A. The first thing we have to do to find and live life to its fullest is establish our connection.
 1. If you do not plug in the device it will not work.
 2. If you do not connect via Blue Tooth, Alexa will not respond.
 3. If you do not stay connected with your spouse your relationship will be destroyed.
 4. Connection is a necessity!
- B. Moses exhorted the people to choose between life or death. He was exhorting them to establish their connection with God.
 1. *"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. **Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!**"* (Deuteronomy 30:19, NLT)
 2. You have a choice. So know, It makes a difference who you are connected to in life.
 3. Moses was exhorting them to establish their connection. And while they are thinking about it he shouts, "Oh, that you would choose life." Freedom, I am exhorting you to choose life today. Those listening online, "Choose life, today!"
- C. Jesus reaffirms the revelation that Moses had. He too leave us with a choice *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* (John 10:10, NLT)
 1. The thief purpose is three fold: steal, kill, and destroy. That is satan's job description. And he is doing a good job. Cancer destroys life, riots destroy life, diabetes destroys life, murder destroys life, abortion destroys destroys life. Hurricanes destroy, fires destroy, floods destroy, earthquakes destroy, pestilence

destroy. No one in their right mind will embrace stealing, killing and destroying unless you are connect with darkness.

2. Jesus said, *"My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."*
 - a) His declaration establishes the alternative to what Satan offers.
 - b) It is quite clear that He is offering us a choice. We can choose who we want to be connected to.
 - c) We can choose to be connected to life....and live that abundantly! Abundant life is eternal life, joyful life, happy life, fulfilling life, satisfied life. In abundant life we find healing restores life, deliverance restores life, prosperity restores life, love restores life...love restores relationships...love restores peace of mind. You would have to be a fool or blind to not accept what Jesus offers.
- D. John 3:16 is your way to connecting with God through Jesus Christ: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16, ESV)
 1. Whoever believes upon the Son of God will not perish! To not believe in Jesus is to perish. You may say there is a God and still not believe in him. James 2:19 says, *"even the demons believe in Jesus!"* But they will not be saved.
 2. Whoever believes (trusts in Jesus) will have eternal life! When you believed, you became a Christian. As a Christian you have access to heaven, not just a fire insurance policy. Even Jesus taught us to pray, *"On earth as it is in heaven."*
 3. Once the connection is established, I want to live life out of that connection. Church that is what I want for you...to live out of that connection!

II. Live Out Of Your Connection

- A. Being connected with Christ I am connected with LIFE! Paul wrote it on multiple occasion: *'we are in Christ.'* Translates: we are in Life. Life is in us. Just what does that mean?
 1. It means there are promises in the Word that are meant to draw us/call us out.
 2. When a promise is found we "STEP OUT" in faith. The promise calls you out. It calls you to action. When you find a promise you find motivation. IE. Have you ever promised a child something if they accomplish a goal. The promise becomes motivation. With God all things are possible for those who believe. (Mt 19:26)
 3. Faith is required to access the power behind the promise.
 4. To live life out of the connection, we must believe/have faith in what God has spoke.
- B. "By faith" (from Hebrews 11) 'by faith' implies that what follows was accomplished/obtained through faith. Faith is the connection. Ie. invisible, like blue tooth.
 1. Faith calls us to an action in order to receive what God has promised and desires to give us." Noah had to build an ark to be delivered. Joshua had to cross over to obtain the land of 'milk and honey.'

2. Faith is total trust/confidence in God doing what He said He would do."
 3. The Word lets us know what we can anticipate receiving! IE. Just like a persons will. The Bible is an Old and New Testament. It lets us know what we are receiving.
- C. Watch this! Ours is an abundant life in the connection!
1. Living Water "Jesus replied, "If you only knew the gift God has for you and who you are speaking to, you would ask me, and I would give you living water.'" (John 4:10, NLT) zoe water!
 2. Bread of Life "Jesus replied, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35, NLT) "But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.'" (John 4:14, NLT)
 3. I AM the Life "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, ESV)

III. Jump Out

- A. Understanding the word–life. There are four NT words that are translated life.
1. ψυχή - natural or human life. Mt 2:20 young child's life. Mt 6:25 don't worry about your life. Mt 20:28 Jesus gave up his natural life, and was raised up with eternal life. He had to trust that the zoé was at work in him while in this natural life.
 2. βίος - manner of life or customs of life. Ie. Biography
 3. ἀναστροφή - a behavior. Behavior or conduct. "Former way of life."
 4. ζωή - ZOÉ - vitality of life not just eternal life, but a life that belongs to this world, now.
- B. Zoé - is a vitality of life. It is living not just alive. It is a new kind of life. It is eternal life –forever alive. And it starts the moment you are born again. *Whoever believes shall have eternal life*. John 3:16. Zoé, is the very nature of God imputed/put in the recreated/born again man! God life in us! This new kind of life recreates us–making us new creatures in Christ. Where this life is, marriages are strong and healthy. Homes are full of life and peace. Where this life is people are walking in divine health. It doesn't come automatically. This life comes by faith. Our faith accesses the promises and release them to us.
1. "The Father has life in himself, and he has granted that same life-giving power to his Son." (John 5:26, NLT) So if I am in Him this life is in me!
 2. Zoé life is true life! It is eternal life and as eternal life it is indestructible! It is not just something that we are hoping for it is something that we have now.
 3. This life is a supreme good and Jesus puts forth His life to save or restore it. In other words where ever the thief is stealing, killing, and destroying, Jesus is saving, healing or restoring.

4. The heart of the Gospel is the resurrection message that He who was dead is now alive.
 - a) Luke 24:9 the disciples rushed back to tell the others of the resurrection. He's Alive!
 - b) *"For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus."* (Romans 6:10-11, ESV)
 - c) Ro 14:9 Jesus is Lord of the living and the dead.
 - d) *"I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."* (Revelation 1:18, NLT)
- C. Jesus is Zoe!
 1. As himself, zōē, He reveals the God whose commands is eternal life. *"And I know his commands lead to eternal life; so I say whatever the Father tells me to say."* (John 12:50, NLT)
 2. Giving life to believers, He is the bread of life (Jn 6:35)
 3. Giving light to believers He is the light of life (Jn 8:12)
 4. He gives to those who believe water of life (Jn 4:10-11)
 5. His words are spirit and life (Jn 6:63) or the words of life (Jn 6:68)
 6. He has come to give life to the world (6:33).
- D. Jump Out!
 1. *"Then Jesus got into the boat and started across the lake with his disciples. Suddenly, a fierce storm struck the lake, with waves breaking into the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him up, shouting, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" Jesus responded, "Why are you afraid? You have so little faith!" Then he got up and rebuked the wind and waves, and suddenly there was a great calm. The disciples were amazed. "Who is this man?" they asked. "Even the winds and waves obey him!"* (Matthew 8:23-27, NLT)
 2. Wind and waves obey Him
 3. Sickness obeys Him
 4. Demons obey Him
 5. Why? Because He is Life and that Life is the Light of men. That Live Drives out darkness!

Conclusion:

- Make the connection!
- Live Life out of the connection
- Jump Out and watch the Life of God work for you!