

**Jesus died that I may be truly alive. (1)**

All of us want to be alive. More than that, we want to know that we are really alive and enjoying the complete joy of those who truly live.

Now listen to what Paul said in Galatians 2: 19 21: *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*"

We need to learn what being truly alive, means. We need to learn what really brings joy, contentment and satisfaction.

Many are convinced that to truly live, you need to be wealthy, so they give up time, energy, relationships and worship - and probably a lot more - to acquire wealth.

Others think they will be truly alive when their lives are lived for the sake of pleasure, so they live to indulge themselves.

Then we find people who believe their lives would be meaningful as a result of successful career, or if they improve their social standing, but this sadly often results in becoming slaves of their jobs, or of greed and arrogance.

One thing that these philosophies above lead to, is a relentless, desperate and anxious pursuit of things. Sadly, all the effort, even when much of this is achieved, often leads to disappointment, depression, burn out, anger, sickness and the frustration of the unfulfilled.

**Christians know what it means to be alive and fulfilled.** Being Christians, we have answered the question about the meaning of life. We know that the meaning of life centres around Jesus Christ, our love for him and our commitment to him. But more importantly, we know the abundance when we really live as disciples of Jesus and as children of our heavenly Father.

This Scripture says, *"I have been crucified with Christ."* This is one of the greatest paradoxes of Scripture and the mystery of God's Kingdom: **In order to truly live, the old person that we were, needs to die.** The Bible says that the old me, with all my limitations and problems, and disastrous goals and desires, has been put to death.

This is key to releasing us from the struggle of trying to live the Christian life by our own strength and power. When the old "me" has been crucified with Christ, the new "me" will come alive in the risen Lord.