

The Path of Life

A Teaching by Ron Brown

*“You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In your right hand there are pleasures forever.” Psalm 16:11*

Today I want to share from the word of the Lord about the Path of Life. There is a passage of scripture in Psalm 16 that is part of a Psalm that David wrote. It’s a messianic Psalm about the Lord Jesus Christ. When Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached the very first sermon of the church, he referenced this passage of scripture confirming the lordship and the deity of Jesus Christ and what Jesus came to do to bring us back to the Father.

Psalm 16:8–11 says, “I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In your right hand there are pleasures forever.”

God Made Known to Christ the Path of Life

We have heard verse 11 quoted many times: “In the presence of the Lord there is fullness of joy and at his right hand there are pleasures forevermore.” I don’t think many people have connected that to being part of this prophetic voice concerning the Lord Jesus Christ when he went through death, burial and resurrection. This was David under the anointing of the Holy Spirit as he was ministering before the Lord and he began to prophesy under the unction of the Holy Spirit on the instrument and these words came forth and they were words that were prophesying about Jesus that his body would not undergo decay because the Lord would raise him up on the third day. This verse 11 is part of Jesus’ words, “Father you will make known to me the path of life, in your presence is fullness of joy and in

your right hand are pleasures forevermore” (as mentioned by Peter in Acts 2:28).

The word “path” means “a well-trodden road that is easy to travel.” Jesus was saying that the Father knows the way to life, the resurrection life that the Father has in his hands. This path is well travelled and is the path of life that we are on.

“Life” means “to revive or to quicken or to make alive.” In other words, Jesus was saying, “Father, I know you are not going to leave me in this grave, in the place of the dead, but you already know the path to bring someone back to full vitality and you are not going to leave your holy one to suffer decay and corruption because you will revive me, you will quicken me and you will make me alive.”

He was literally prophesying about the power of God’s presence to resurrect those things that are dead—and that power is available to us today. It says, “In your presence” and that word “presence” means “when your face is turned towards me, I have great comfort and I have great peace.” The Lord Jesus was speaking as David was prophesying that, “Father, I know that even when I’m lying in that grave after they have taken my life, your face would be towards me and your favor will be upon me and I will be comforted.”

In another way, when he says that there would be “pleasures forever,” that word “pleasure” means that there would be “a delightful, joyful, presence that will be about me because I know that you are with me, you are looking at me, you will not turn your back on me” and the Lord speaks to us today and says he will not turn his back on us. His face is turned towards Teen Challenge, his face is turned towards us with his favor and so we are to take comfort, we are to



Stirrings—inspired by 2 Timothy 1:6, Amplified Version—is an abridged summary of devotionals and leadership teachings by Ron Brown, Executive Director of Teen Challenge of Southern California. They are presented at regular meetings of the TCSC Leadership Team as part of its commitment to excellence, personal growth, and spiritual vitality. **Complete audio is available at <http://www.teenchallenge.org/stirrings> or scan this QR code.**



rest in that fact, we are to rejoice and know that God is with us. Hallelujah!

The Path of Life Includes Revelation Insight

When it says, “You will make known to me,” that speaks of revelation, to make known. When I looked up “to make known” in the Greek, it means “to know by seeing” and so what Jesus was prophesying and speaking is that “You will let me see my way through this entire situation that I’m going through to bring redemption to mankind.” In other words, that there would be revelation insight that

would come every step of the way in the journey. You see that in Jesus’ life as

he went through the Garden of Gethsemane, as he went to the cross, as he went to the grave, he was saying, “You will give me revelation, you will reveal to me what is needed in the moment so that I will stay in the path that you have ordained for my life.” I want you to know today that God’s revelation is available to us so that we can walk in the path of life that the Lord has for us.

In Acts 2, as Peter got up and gave that first sermon of the church, he was giving an explanation about this power of the Holy Spirit that had manifested and people saw others ministering to the Lord and prophesying and speaking in tongues and they were wondering if the people were drunk. Peter said, “They are not drunk as you suppose,” and he began to declare to them what they were actually witnessing. They were witnessing the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ being birthed in the people of God. He spoke about the prophecy of Joel and that this was a fulfillment of what Joel had spoken about how the spirit of God would come and whoever called on the name of the Lord would be saved. Then we see starting in Acts 2:25 he continued on with his sermon and quoted Psalm 16:8–11.

He was quoting the prophet David about the Lord Jesus Christ and in Acts 2:28 we see that same phrase from Psalm 16:11, “You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.” He was speaking about Jesus and how Jesus had come and how God had watched over him and performed his word and raised him from the dead.

As I was reading and meditating on this, I said, “Lord, this is really how you are in our lives too—that you are the resurrection, you are the life.” There are times when our dreams seem like they are delayed. There are times when it seems like things are not going to work out and I want to encourage you today that God is still the God of the resurrection, hallelujah, and he is able

to raise to newness of life and we need to learn to walk in the ways or the Path of Life.

Romans 4:17 says, “As it is written, ‘A father of many nations have I made you,’ in the presence of Him whom he believed, even God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.” Hallelujah! This is what the Lord did for Abraham when God gave Abraham the promise. Abraham’s body and his wife’s body were old—dead if you will—and they were not able to give birth to the promised son that God said that they would have. But God, the same God who raised Jesus from the dead, spoke and he brought forth quickening life to the body of Abraham. He brought forth quickening life to Sarah’s body and they were able to conceive and bring forth Isaac at the appointed time.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life and he still can speak life. So if there are people you know who are struggling with sicknesses, as we heard the testimony of our beloved brother Tom and how God has raised him up, this should not be an anomaly but this should be commonplace for us to experience the supernatural abundant resurrection power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God’s Resurrection Power Was Seen in the Upper Room

There is something common in Peter’s first two sermons that he preached in the book of Acts. He preached about the resurrection, he preached about the power of the cross and he preached about the power of the Holy Spirit. There are times when we have a disconnect in our theology and our understanding about the things of the kingdom. When the Holy Spirit came upon Peter, God was still speaking that this is all one thing that is tied together, that what Peter was explaining about, what they saw with the people speaking in tongues and the power of the Holy Spirit upon them, that this is what Christianity looks like. It’s not Pentecostal, but it is Christianity when the resurrection life of God comes and the power of heaven manifests and so they began to speak in

the heavenly language because resurrection power had come, heaven had come to earth. And

when heaven comes to earth, the natural things of man must fall away and the power of heaven is revealed and what Peter was saying is “What you have just witnessed.”

With these 120 folks who came out of the upper room, you are witnessing resurrection power. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Spirit that carried Jesus to the cross, that same Spirit is what was manifested here. The power of the Holy Spirit through this 120 people has manifested in prophecy and speaking in tongues. We should never back down

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from the truth of what God has said.

This is the birthing of the church and when you think about biblical interpretation and the Law of First Mentions, you look where things began. If you want to know how God feels about things, go back to Genesis. You can look in the beginning and see how the Lord moves. When you want to know how God feels about the church, go back to the beginning—and here the book of Acts shows us where the church began. When you look at the beginning of the church in Acts, this is what the church should look like. When I travel around the world and minister in different countries and what they call the Pentecostal movement is the fastest growing part of the body of Christ around the world.

It doesn't surprise me because this is what the church looked like in the beginning. If we have not allowed ourselves to be talked out of the reality of the power of the Spirit, if we have not allowed ourselves to be talked into a religious mindset that denies the power of God, then this is what we experience. This is the power of the resurrection. This is the life of God. This is the way of life. Jesus said, "Father, you will teach me the path and the ways of life." The path of life and the ways of life include the cross. We must die to our own agenda, die to our own plan, die to our own ways. The ways of life includes the power of the resurrection, which is the power of the Kingdom.

The ways of life include the promise of the Father, which is the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit. These are the ways

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of life and if we have anything to offer in service to the King, if we have anything to share with those who are in darkness and in bondage and in blindness and in deception, we must go with the ways of life. We cannot go with our own thoughts. We cannot go with our plans. We can't go with our own ways. We must go with the ways of God and the ways of God are the ways of life. We go teaching the power of the cross, we go teaching the power of the resurrection and we go teaching the promise of the Holy Spirit. Praise God! They should all be there together and not disconnected from one another but it is one message, it is one God, it is one way of the Lord Jesus Christ and this is what we are to exemplify in our lives as the people of Almighty God.

We Can Know His Eternal Resurrection Power Today

I'm excited about this new season of the Lord, bringing back the truth of his word to the church universal so that the church begins to have the power to bring forth the Kingdom so that people can be set free. When Jesus came, he came preaching the Kingdom, he walked in resurrection power, he walked in the

resurrection life. When he stood at Lazarus' tomb after Lazarus had been dead for four days and he said, "Lazarus, come forth," he spoke from that resurrection power and authority. So in Psalms 16:11, when he said, "The Father will make known to me the path of life," this is a well-travelled path, hallelujah, because God has been there. It's been well travelled and God is able to give life to the dead. Jesus said even if your physical life stops, he says, "You will live forever with me." We are here to call people back to the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a matter of fact I think sometimes we stop short in John 3:16 when the Lord talks about where we are about to be born again. It says, "Whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life" (KJV). I think sometimes we stop with the word "perish."

We say that if you accept Christ you won't perish, you will make it to heaven. Yes, but there is another part to it. It says, "but [you shall] have everlasting [eternal] life." When? Not in the by-and-by but you have eternal life right now because this is eternal life according to John 17:3. Jesus said, "This is eternal life, that they may know You [the Father], the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." So our message is not complete if we tell people that if they accept Christ and they are born again that they will not perish. We must go on to teach them that they will not perish but will have eternal life right here, right now. You can know the Father, you can know the power of the Holy Spirit, you can know hope, you can know peace. You can know the resurrection life that flows through your life right here.

We need to teach people about the eternal life that they can experience right here on earth. Sure, we will have a glorious time when we are in heaven forever and ever. But part of the ways of life is we need to teach people eternal life. Resurrection life begins the moment that they are born again and they can experience the fullness. That's what Peter was explaining on the day of Pentecost. He was saying, "What you see these 120 exemplifying? They are exemplifying eternal life because you are seeing the fullness of the spirit of God in them because they know Jesus Christ and they know the Father who sent him."

We Are to Carry Forth God's Power Into the World

So this is what we are to do. Preach the gospel, preach the cross, preach the resurrection—which is the power of the Kingdom—with great authority and preach the fullness of the Holy Spirit. This is the promise of the Father.

In Luke 24, Jesus' last commandment to his disciples was to "Go!" In Luke 24:49, he says, "Behold, I am sending forth the

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promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." In other words, Jesus said, "Stay there until you get the resurrection power, until you get the eternal life of God flowing in you." So, for 10 days they were in this upper room in obedience to the Lord.

In Greek, the word "stay" is *kathisate*. It doesn't mean to sit down or "I'm just going to wait here until something falls on me." It literally means "to sit in a place of authority, rulership and dominion, and exercise the authority of heaven."

The word of God says that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. So what Jesus was telling them to do was, "You go and you sit until you get a revelation. I will make known to you the path of life. I will give you revelation." So we need to sit until we have a revelation of what it means to be a child of God and to be seated at the right hand of the Father because we are in him. Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. So are we. We are seated with him in heavenly places and so we can now walk in a place of authority and you see that begin to manifest.

When they moved out of that upper room they began to go across Jerusalem and across the world as persecution came and they manifested that they had authority as sitting at the right hand of God and you see the people getting set free from sickness and disease and people being raised from the dead and you see miracles occur throughout the book of Acts. Why?

Because they understood that they were in a place of authority and they were walking in resurrection power. They were walking in the path of life and this is what we are to live every single day. People are tired of seeing religion. We have plenty of religion and God did not call us to religion but he called us to relationship and that's what eternal life is, to know Jesus and to know the Father whom he has sent.

You know that may not sound that profound but I'm telling you it's profound because if you know him then his power will begin to work in and through your life. We have this treasure in earthen vessels and it's time for the treasure on the inside to be seen on the outside of the church and that's really what happened when they came out of that upper room. The treasure that was in them was manifest on the outside and God is calling us, as his people in this hour, to allow the glory of God, the treasure of heaven, the resurrection life of God that is on the inside of us to be manifest on the outside in the way that we live, in the way that we minister, in the way that we love, in the way that we treat one another, in the way that we exemplify the power of the Kingdom to bring resurrection life to those who are hopeless. May God use us in this next season to be his servants walking in the Path of Life.

Note: All scriptures are NASB unless noted otherwise.

