Unless We Die

Jesus has:

- Talked with the woman at the well, spent two days with the Samaritans and many believed in him.
- Healed the officials son from far away
- Fed the 5,000 men plus women & children
- Walked on the water
- Stood up for the woman caught in adultery
- Healed a the blind and crippled
- Raised Lazarus from the dead
- Rode into town on a donkey

psuche, used of the life of man, which can be lost, destroyed, saved, laid down, &c., occurs 58 times

- A life owned by the ways of this world
- A life owned by my own desires
- A life driven by self-gratification and self-absorption
- Life as it is intertwined with the ways of this sinful world, and our desire to make much of ourselves in it.
- A life lived by our own strength and accomplishment, no doubt like the lives the pharisees led.
- A life lived by our own strength in pursuit of the ways of the world and our ultimate glorification.

psuche - A life lived by our own strength in pursuit of the ways of the world and our own ultimate glorification.

zoe - life as God intended it to be. (from the same root at Eve.) A life lived in concert and pursuit of God and His way.

ZOE, and it means "life in the absolute sense, life as God has it" (Vine's Expository Dictionary). Everyone who is breathing has life in the sense of physical existence (psuche), but only those who receive Jesus can experience life (zoe) as God intended it to be. Jesus came not only to save people from the torment of eternal hell but also to give them this ZOE life, or God-kind of life, in abundance. The life of God is not awaiting people in heaven but is the present possession of all born-again believers in

their spirits (Joh 5:24 and 1Jo 3:14). Believers can release this ZOE life and enjoy it now by losing their natural lives (Mt 16:24-25, Mr 8:34-37, and Lu 9:23-25) and finding this supernatural life. The way believers lose their lives is to deny any thoughts, emotions, or actions that are contrary to the Word of God, which is life (ZOE in Joh 6:63). When they line their thoughts, emotions, and actions up with the instructions of God's Word, then they'll find this ZOE life manifest in their bodies and souls as well (see note 53 at Mt 7:14).

John 5:16-30

16 So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began to persecute him.**17** In his defense Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working." **18** For this reason they tried all the more to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

19 Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. **20** For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed. **21** For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them **life (zoe)**, even so the Son gives **life (zoe)** to whom he is pleased to give it. **22** Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, **23** that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.

24 "Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal **life (zoe)** and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to **life (zoe)**. **25** Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will **live (zao)**. **26** For as the Father has **life (zoe)** in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have **life (zoe)** in himself. **27** And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

28 "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice **29** and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to **live (zoe)**, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. **30** By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me.

John 10:1-18

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate,
but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. **2** The one who enters by the
gate is the shepherd of the sheep.**3** The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the
sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4** When
he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him
because they know his voice. **5** But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will
run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” **6** Jesus used
this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All
who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to
them. **9** I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and
go out, and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have
come that they may have **life (zoe)**, and have it to the full.

11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his **life (psuche)** for the
sheep. **12** The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he
sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks
the flock and scatters it. **13** The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares
nothing for the sheep.

14 “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— **15** just as the
Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my **life (psuche)** for the
sheep. **16** I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.
They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. **17** The
reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my **life (psuche)**—only to take it up
again. **18** No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority
to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my
Father.”

John 10

- Jesus came to give us zoe
- And he’s going to give us zoe by laying down his psuche

John 11

- A miracle to illustrate the psuche vs the zoe
- Lazarus is the illustration of the result of a psuche life that has been laid down and a zoe life raised up.
    - 11:45 - Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.
    - 12:17-18 - Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. **18** Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign,went out to meet him.
- Could Lazarus' sickness that brought him death be illustrative of the sin condition that brings death to all mankind?

John 12

- "Anyone who loves their **life (psuche)** will lose it, while anyone who hates their **life (psuche)** in this world will keep it for eternal **life (zoe)**."
- Light & darkness.
    - "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.**36** Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light."
    - for they loved human praise more than praise from God.

John 13

- Jesus reminds the disciples of the kind of love they are supposed to love one another with.
    - "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."
    - Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
    - 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
    - 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is **clean (katharos)**. And you are **clean (katharos)**, though not every one of you."
    - **12** When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. **13** "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. **14** Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. **15** I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

- **34** “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**35** By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

- Why all the talk about Jesus being a messenger for the father is important:
  - Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

- When we attempt to follow Christ with psuche life, we come up short.
  - **37** Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow you now? I will lay down my **life (psuche)** for you.”
  - **38** Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your **life (psuche)** for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!
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John 14

- How do we move from psuche life to zoe life? Belief in Jesus.
  - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me...You know the way to the place where I am going.”
  - “I am the way and the truth and the **life (zoe)**. No one comes to the Father except through me.**7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”
- Yet, even among his own, there was a struggle to believe. Thomas & Philip just didn’t quite get it until after the fact.
  - “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. **13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.
- Living the zoe life means obeying the teachings of Jesus over the teaching of the world
  - **23** Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father

will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24** Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

- Psuche gives in a way that only benefits itself, zoe lays its own life down.
    - **25** "All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **27** Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 15

- Being in Christ means being continually cleansed of the world. To be in Christ, means to be attached to the vine. The more like Christ we become, the more fruit we produce.
    - The more we move into the zoe life and are cleansed of the psuche life, the more fruit we will produce.
    - **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he **prunes (kathairo)** so that it will be even more fruitful.
- Bearing fruit brings the father glory
    - **5** "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- The command to obey the laying down of our psuche life to produce fruit of the zoe life that will last.
    - My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's **life (psuche)** for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might <u>go and bear fruit—fruit that will last</u>—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.
- The more we move out of the psuche life and into the zoe life, the less like the

world we will be. Which means the world will like us less and less.

- **18** "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. **19** If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. **20** Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.
- But "whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."
  - We are being sent out by Jesus Christ to lay down our psuche life so we can lead the world to the zoe life found in Christ.

psuche - A life lived by our own strength in pursuit of the ways of the world and our own ultimate glorification.

zoe - life as God intended it to be. (from the same root at Eve.) A life lived in concert and pursuit of God and His way.

John 12:25
"Anyone who loves their **life (psuche)** will lose it, while anyone who hates their **life (psuche)** in this world will keep it for eternal **life (zoe)**."

John 12:23-26
23 Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. **24** Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. **25** Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. **26** Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies…

But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Whoever serves me must follow me.

Where are we to follow?

- Just as Jesus gave up his life, we are to lay down our lives.

- Matthew 16:24-26: "**24** Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. **25** For whoever would save his life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. **26** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"
- 1 Pet. 2:24: "**24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. "
- Gal 2:20: " I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
- Rom 5:18-6: "**18** Therefore, as one trespass[f] led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness[g] leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- **5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self[a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free[b] from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus

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How?

- Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

It is by following Christ into death that we find life.