

# From Death to Life

Sermon Title: **Endurance - From Death to Life**

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Elisha Bronner: You can't have life without God because God is life.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:12 - 00:00:25)

And now for "From Death to Life."

Elisha Bronner: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because brother and sister, you need the Word. So, today, I will be speaking from the title of "From Death to Life." This is what Jesus has done for us as believers. There's a quote that says, "Jesus didn't come to make bad people good but He came to make dead people alive." As Christians, we get to walk in that life and live in that place of being alive because of Jesus.

So, to understand this in its fullness, we have to go back to the beginning. Back to Genesis Chapter 1 where God created everything and on the sixth day, God created man and Genesis Chapter 2 Verse 7 it says, "Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils and the man became a living being."

So, before that moment man, did not have breath, did not have life, but the moment that God whose life himself breathe into man, man became alive. Man went from having no life to being full of life to having life himself on the inside of him. Because God is life, and life originates from God, man became full of life. You can't have life without God because God is life. So, man at the very breath of life on the inside of him which caused him to come alive. So, not only that, but man was in the Garden of Eden walking with life himself. God walked among men in the Garden of Eden. There was no separation. God dwelled with man and man dwelled with God and they are living there together in life.

So, the word Eden, it actually means "delight" in the original language. So, it was God's delight to dwell with man in this place that was a place full of delight because its God and man and there's no separation, there's no boundaries in between them, it's just God and man living together, dwelling together uninterrupted unity between God and man. That is where God had the most delight because His greatest desire is to be with us.

So, in the Garden of Eden means “delight” and that’s where God was full of delight because He is with man.

But in Genesis Chapter 3, this changed. So, starting at Verse 1 it says, “Now, the serpent was the most cunning of all the wild animals that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say you can’t eat from any tree in the garden?’ the woman says to the serpent, ‘We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But about the fruit in the tree in the middle of the garden, God said, ‘You must not eat it or touch it or you will die.’ ‘No, you will not die.’ The serpent said to the woman. ‘In fact, God knows that when you eat it, your eyes will be open and you will be like God knowing good and evil.’ Then, the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and delightful to look at, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom. So, she took some of its fruit and ate it, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her; and he ate it.”

So, in Genesis Chapter 3, you see the change from where man is living in life to when they partake of the fruit which results in death. So, in Verse 6, you have the woman who is being deceived by the serpent who is Satan who is the father of lies, who is the one who brings death and he promised three things. This is three things that Satan told the woman that would happen if she ate the fruit.

So, we already have God who told the woman that “When you eat this fruit, you will surely die.” But you have Satan telling the woman, “You’re not going to die, this is what’s going to happen instead.” So, he tells her, “One, you will be made like God. Two, you will not die and three, because of what he’s telling her, she looks at the fruit and says that it’s delightful to look at.” So, the third things is that it would be delightful.

So, instead of remaining in the life because she already had with God, and instead of obeying God and living from that place of life with him, instead of listening and believing that what God said was going to happen, she chose to instead eat of the fruit based off of an empty promise from the deceiver. So, instead of becoming like God which is interesting because they were already formed in the image of God, they already had the breath of God inside of them, so, they were already like God.

Instead of becoming like God, they became the opposite, they became full of sin, full of shame. They hid from God instead of walking in closeness with God, they hid themselves, they covered themselves. The second thing Satan told her that she would not die. So, instead of not dying the minute that they ate the fruit, they became separated from God and there was a distance, and there was a wall because sin separates us from God because God again is life and sin leads to death and life and death cannot coexist at the same time. So, Satan told her that she would not die but they ended up dying a spiritual death.

The third thing was that it will be delightful. She looked at this fruit and thought it would be delightful. But instead of being delighted, God ends up placing a curse on her, Adam and the serpent. They are kicked out of the Garden of Eden which is the place of delight. Which is the place where they were delighting themselves and God and God was delighting themselves and then, they were taken from that place of delight because of the false advertisement that this sin will bring you delight. So, she took that in. Instead of getting delight, she got removed from delight.

So, this not only happened to Adam and to Eve. They were not the only ones who ate the fruit and died but it was from all of us. We are all Adam and Eve. We all partook of that fruit and died and you might say, "But I wasn't alive right back then in Genesis Chapter 1." But in Romans Chapter 5 Verse 12 it says, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin in this way, death spread to all men because all have sinned." So, we are all the sinners back in the Garden of Eden. I know that's hard to believe but it's all of us.

So, God told them one thing that he instructed them, "You are free to eat of any tree in this garden except this one." That's the one that chose to do. How many times does God tell us, "You are free to do X, Y and Z." But we choose to go into the one thing that He tells us not to do. We hear from God and He tells us to do something and we say, "Okay, God like that's cool but I'm not going to do it." Like we go the opposite direction. We open our Bible and we read it and we know what it says and then, we close it and we're like, "All right, that was great but I'm going to continue living my life."

So, when we do those things, we are just like Adam and Eve in the garden when they chose to partake in death rather than life. So, the death again it's spiritual. It's a spiritual separation from God. It creates a boundary between us. It creates an obstacle where we can no longer get to God.

In Romans Chapter 6 Verse 23 it says that, "The wages of sin is death." So, we chose sin, we chose death and while it is a spiritual death, it is also a physical death. So, in the Old Testament, people have to make sacrifices constantly because the wages of sin is death, they had to pay for their sin. If they weren't going to die, they have to bring a replacement, a sacrifice to take the place to die for them. So, they're constantly sacrificing these animals because death has to happen because sin equals death.

So, because humans don't just sin once and they were like, "All right, we're good. I'm not going to sin any more, we're going to live a perfect life now." We sin again and again and again. So, these sacrifices have to continually be made again and again and again. So, Jesus came. Praise God. Praise God for Jesus.

So, Romans Chapter 6 Verse 23, it's still true, "The wages of sin still equals death." The second half of that verse it says, "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." So, the only way that we can go from having death to life is in Jesus.

So, in John Chapter 6 Verse 51, Jesus is talking to the pharisees and to his disciples and he tells them, "I am the living Bread that came down from Heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. The Bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." So, here, Jesus he knows He's talking to a group of sinners. He knows that the wages of sin is death but He's telling them, "I have an answer for this problem of sin. I have an answer for this problem of death and the answer is Me. You can partake of Me and you can have life instead of death." He told them, "I have a cure for your sin. I have an answer for the penalty of death, the answer is to eat of the living the bread." The bread that He is giving for the life of the world which is Himself. So, he says, "In order to live, you have to partake of me, you have to eat my flesh which I'm giving to you."

Nobody made Him die. He gave His life for us so we might have life in return. In John 6:53-58, He continues and He says, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves. Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day because my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I in him. Just as the Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from Heaven. It is not like the manna your fathers ate and they died, the one who eats this bread will live forever."

So, taking this back to Genesis Chapter 2 where God said, "Whoever eats of this fruit on this tree will surely die," Jesus tells us, "Whoever eats of my living bread will surely live, will surely have life, will surely have eternal life," and because God is God and He cannot make false promises like Satan did back in the garden, what God says has to come to pass. So, when they ate of the fruit, they surely died, but when Jesus tells us we can eat of Him and find life, we surely live. So, when we ate the first time, we experienced death, but Jesus gives us a second chance now to eat of him, that we might live.

So, as He's talking to the pharisees and to the disciples, they think He means literally, like they should literally eat Jesus' body and they should literally drink His blood, but Jesus, He's not talking at a literal level but under the spiritual, but He's talking about giving up His life as the sacrifice for our sin on our behalf, the death that He did not have to die because He was not the one who sinned, it was us.

So, He says that His body is real food and His blood is real drink, not that it's literal for us to eat and to drink, but that is the real sacrifice that covers all of our sins, that it is the one sacrifice, that it is the one sacrifice that covers all of our sins, that is all sufficient for every person all across the earth for all of time. That this is the one sacrifice that has to be made and after that, there don't have to be any more sacrifices being made because, again, like I said, in the Old Testament, they were making sacrifices day after day after day because they were sinning minute after minute after minute. But now, Jesus was the one sacrifice that had to be made once and for all.

Now, we are able to eat of Him and to dwell with Him and to drink of His blood, and to take His righteousness for ourselves, because He took our sins onto him, onto the cross so, we can eat of Him and live. So, Jesus invites us to eat of His flesh and to drink of His blood, and to feast on him, and when He says feast, it's something enjoyable, it's something fun. He wants us to enjoy being with him, enjoy being in His presence, enjoy being in His Word.

So, when we eat of Jesus, when we feast on him, when we eat the living bread that He is, He is redeeming everything that happened as a result of us eating the fruit in the garden. So, in the garden, Satan said that when we eat this fruit, we will be like God. What really happened was that we entered into sin. We became covered in shame and we hid ourselves from God. But now, in Jesus, He calls us with His righteousness and His holiness, and He gives us a new nature so that we desire the things that God desires, and we're on one accord. God, He gives us His Holy Spirit to live inside of us.

In the garden, Satan told Eve that once she ate of the fruit that she would not die, but what really happened was that they died spiritually and it caused all of us to die the spiritual death. But now, in Christ, we have new life. He has reconnected us to God, who is life Himself, and now, we have life in Him. Our lives are hidden in Him.

Galatians Chapter 2 Verse 20 says, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Our relationship with God is restored. There is no longer a barrier between us and God, and now, we have access to eternal life because of Jesus.

In the garden, Satan showed her that eating the fruit would be delightful, it would bring her delight. What really happened was that she was not filled with delight, but that she was actually kicked out of the place of delight.

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Now, in Christ, He gives us a new nature that desires the very things of God, that desire God Himself, and instead of pursuing sin which has the appearance of delight but is really rotten on the inside, we are pursuing Christ, we are pursuing righteousness. We are pursuing the things that will give us true delight, because

true delight is found in Jesus. He gives that to us and because of Jesus, we can have satisfaction, and here, we can be completely satisfied with just Jesus and nothing else.

We can again live with God and have closeness with God, and we can find delight in Him, and God can again be delighted with us. So, eating the forbidden fruit in the garden, it brought death, it brought brokenness, and it brought sin while feasting on Jesus brings us restoration. It brings us redemption. It brings us eternal life, and eternal life doesn't just start the moment that we die. It starts now.

It starts the minute that we realize that we are sinners in need of a savior, that He died, that He took our place, and it cost and died, our death to bring us into His life, that we can live on this Earth. So, when you make the decision to lay down everything else and follow Jesus, from that moment forward, you are in eternal life, you are having eternal life here on this Earth. So, when we feast on Jesus, we are walking in that life. When we feast on Jesus, we are living in the eternal life and we are bringing the Kingdom of God to this Earth.

So, the first one that we feast on Jesus and walk in life is, again, by feasting on His Word. His Word is meant to point us to Jesus. In John Chapter 1, it says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." The Word is always there to point us to Jesus. So, in John Chapter 5 Verse 39, he's talking to the pharisees and He says, "You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, yet they testify about me."

So, the pharisees are looking over the Scriptures and trying to figure out how they can better follow the Law, how they can better hold the standard of righteousness, how they can better live out this law of righteousness. While Jesus is saying, "That is not where eternal life is found. Eternal life is found in me." You can only have righteousness in Jesus. Jesus is our righteousness. The scriptures are only there to point us to Him.

So, they are studying the scriptures to follow the law better, but the more that I read and study the scripture, I'm saying, "Jesus, I can't do this. I can't do this. The law, I can't follow it," because when you break one, you break them all, and Jesus was the only one who is perfect enough to keep the whole law, and then,

because He traded my sin for His righteousness and clothed me with righteousness and took on sin.

Okay. So, the second way that we feast on Jesus and walk in this life is to choose to dwell with Him and to acknowledge that He dwells with us, to acknowledge that He is always with us, always walking alongside us, always with us in every moment, everywhere that we go, every place that we find. So, Jesus is here. He is putting His Holy Spirit on the inside of us. He is even closer to us than He was to Adam and Eve in the garden, because they were walking beside Him, but now, He lives inside of us. He is closer to us than our very breath.

So, Jesus, when He died on the cross, He tore the veil. He got rid of the whole separation between us and God. So, now, we can just come into His presence. We don't have to make a sacrifice. We don't have to wait our turn. We don't have to go through these rituals. We can just come in.

He tells us that we can come boldly to the Throne of Grace and we can just be with Him. We can dwell with Him. There are no time constraints. He does not have his timer and say, "Okay, you get five minutes and that's it." He loves to spend time with us. He loves for us to spend time with Him. So, that is the second way that we feast on Jesus and walk in life is, recognizing that He is with us always.

The third one, that we feast on Jesus and walk in life, is to live out your purpose. So, this is living out the life that Jesus has called us to live. This is walking in the things that He has put in for us before the beginning of time. These are the things that He has said before you were even thought about for you to walk in and to pursue. So, when you are walking and you're calling and pursuing the specific calling that God has on your life, you are walking in life and you are feasting on Jesus, because it is in that moment where you realize that, "I am fully alive, because I am right in the middle of the Will of God," and that is where life is found.

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So, when we're walking in our purpose, walking in our calling that's when we can find that, the light that comes from feasting on Jesus because when we're not doing that, we are drained and

we're just out of it. We don't want to go on anymore but we are walking in that. We are full of life. He fills us continually to walk and to pursue the things that he has for us. So, through Jesus' death, we find life, through His defeat, we find victory, through Him being separated from God, we are now reconciled to God and through Him being forsaken on the cross, we now are given the promise that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

So now, in Jesus' death, we find life. When we die to ourselves, when we die to our wants, when we die to our desires, we find new life in Him. In Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus tells His disciples, "If anyone wants to come with me, he must deny himself, take of his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will save it." That is when we find true life is following Jesus.

In Romans 8:13 says, "If you live according to the flesh, you are going to die, but if by the Spirit you put to death that this are the body you will live." So, we were once dead but Jesus brought us to new life in Him and He invites us to feast on Him, to dwell in Him, to study His Word, to live out His purpose and to follow Him as He breathes life into us every single day from now until eternity.

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