

How many times have we looked into the starry night sky and wondered why in the world are we alive? What is our purpose for living? What value does God see in me? Why is this life so hard? Where do I fit in?

Here's what Jesus, our Master said:

130:4.7 Life is an adaptation of the original cosmic causation [origins] to the demands and possibilities of universe situations [free will choices], and it comes into being by the action of the Universal Mind [ministry of our Mother Spirit directly to us] and the activation of the spirit spark of the God who is spirit [our indwelling Thought Adjusters]. The meaning of life is its adaptability [our free choices = soul growth]; the value of life is its progress-ability [how much we have allowed God to grow us from within ourselves]— even to the heights of God-consciousness [direct contact with Him = thinkers with God].

Jesus says that it all begins in our minds. Our mind's free will choices are driven by our personalities which are gifts from God and those personalities hail from Paradise itself. So – as we pursue our Father in our minds and as we make better and higher choices of our own free will then we adapt our living to become in line with God's desires for us. This is how we make “progress” in becoming one who can think with God moment by moment. This creates our destiny!

I s this why adversity and suffering have value for me?

148:6.2 "My son, you do not comprehend the meaning of **adversity or the mission of suffering**. Have you not read that masterpiece of Semitic literature — the Scripture story of the afflictions of Job? Do you not recall how this wonderful parable begins with the recital of the material prosperity of the Lord's servant? You well remember that Job was blessed with children, wealth, dignity, position, health, and everything else which men value in this temporal life. According to the time-honored teachings of the children of Abraham such material prosperity was all-sufficient evidence of divine favor. But such **material possessions and such temporal prosperity do not indicate God's favor. My Father in heaven loves the poor just as much as the rich; he is no respecter of persons.** ~ Jesus

Life is meant to be a fairly rugged struggle so we will grow!

160:1.5 Animals respond nobly to the urge of life, but **only man can attain the art of living**, albeit the majority of mankind only experience the animal urge to live. Animals know only this blind and instinctive urge; man is capable of **transcending this urge to natural function**. Man may elect to live upon the high plane of intelligent art, even that of celestial joy and spiritual ecstasy. Animals make no inquiry into the purposes of life; therefore they never worry, neither do they commit suicide. Suicide among men testifies that such beings have emerged from the purely animal stage of existence, and to the further fact that the exploratory efforts of such human beings have failed to attain the artistic levels of mortal experience. Animals know not the meaning of life; **man not only possesses capacity for the recognition of values and the comprehension of meanings, but he also is conscious of the meaning of meanings — he is self-conscious of insight.** ~ Rodan, a great Greek philosopher and follower of Jesus, our Master

Rodan and Jesus have both taught us about spiritual “transcendence”.

Definition of transcendence: noun

The character of being transcendent; **elevation**

The act of **surpassing** usual **limits**

The **state** of being **beyond** the **range** of **normal perception**

Unlike animals we as humans have the ability to, with God's help surpass typical limits and go beyond what is normally perceived as average mortal beings. When we obey what Jesus has taught us to do by pursuing God we are blessed by Him with transcendent faith that propels us into higher spiritual thoughts, elevated spiritual insights and taken into a state of being where our lives become superhuman in a very real way. Here's what Jesus said:

193:0.3 "And now you should **give ear to my words** lest you again make the mistake of hearing my teaching with the mind while in your hearts you fail to comprehend the meaning. From the beginning of my sojourn as one of you, **I taught you that my one purpose was to reveal my Father in heaven to his children on earth. I have lived the God-revealing bestowal that you might experience the God-knowing career. I have revealed God as your Father in heaven; I have revealed you as the sons of God on earth. It is a fact that God loves you, his sons/daughters. By faith in my word this fact becomes an eternal and living truth in your hearts. When, by living faith, you become divinely God-conscious, you are then born of the spirit as children of light and life, even the eternal life wherewith you shall ascend the universe of universes and attain the experience of finding God the Father on Paradise.**

Our Master goes on to explain further regarding our life and mission on Earth:

193:0.4 "I admonish you ever to remember that **your mission among men is to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom — the reality of the fatherhood of God and the truth of the sonship of man. Proclaim the whole truth of the good**

news, not just a part of the saving gospel. Your message is not changed by my resurrection experience. Sonship with God, by faith, is still the saving truth of the gospel of the kingdom. You are to go forth preaching the love of God and the service of man. That which the world needs most to know is: Men are the sons of God, and through faith they can actually realize, and daily experience, this ennobling truth. My bestowal should help all men and women to know that they are the children of God, but such knowledge will not suffice if they fail personally to faith-grasp the saving truth that they are the living spirit sons of the eternal Father. The gospel of the kingdom is concerned with the love of the Father and the service of his children on earth. ~ Jesus

What is my reason for living? Jesus says that in actually realizing this love of God on a daily basis and in EVERYTHING that we think and then do we will find ennobling purpose and truths for our daily living. This is because when we find God within and then KNOW GOD **He leads our paths into His will** which becomes our loving service to every fellow that we meet. Please >>> re-read that previous sentence SLOWLY! It is Jesus' own Spirit of Truth and God as our Father who becomes active and spiritually living in our hearts and minds. When They are dominant within us we become living expressions of Their love poured out to others from our hearts. This occurs because we are beginning to "think with God". We invite Him to change us and direct us into new life pathways.

We are capable of entering into the SPIRIT of Jesus' life!

196:1.3 To "follow Jesus" means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to find out what Jesus believed, to discover his ideals, and to strive for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it.

Because Jesus' Spirit of Truth lives in our souls He teaches us how to live like He did when we ask Him.

142:6.7 And Nicodemus said: "But how can I begin to lay hold upon this spirit which is to remake me in preparation for entering into the kingdom?" Jesus answered: "Already does the spirit of the Father in heaven indwell you. If you would be led by this spirit from above, very soon would you begin to see with the eyes of the spirit, and then by the wholehearted choice of spirit guidance would you be born of the spirit since your only purpose in living would be to do the will of your Father who is in heaven. And so finding yourself born of the spirit and happily in the kingdom of God, you would begin to bear in your daily life the abundant fruits of the spirit."

Our purpose for living now, and eternal life to come is found in making contact with the divine presence.

196:3.34 The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind. Man's greatest adventure in the flesh consists in the well-balanced and sane effort to advance the borders of self-consciousness out through the dim realms of embryonic soul-consciousness in a wholehearted effort to reach the borderland of spirit-consciousness — contact with the divine presence. Such an experience constitutes God-consciousness, an experience mightily confirmative of the pre-existent truth of the religious experience of knowing God. Such spirit-consciousness is the equivalent of the knowledge of the actuality of sonship with God. Otherwise, the assurance of sonship is the experience of faith.

In finding God we are finding our purpose for living!

117:6.9 When people search for God, they are searching for everything. When they find God, they have found everything. ~ a Mighty Messenger sojourning on Urantia

To choosing our life purpose to become "thinkers with God" ~ Marin DeJohn

Some questions to discuss:

Have you ever thought/felt God's presence in your mind or heart? If so, what was it like?

How has your life "adapted" as you have pursued God within?

Is it a new thought for you that God is no respect-or of person-s be one rich or poor, high position in society or low, healthy or afflicted with illness etc...? If so tell us more?

How do you view struggles today? Are afflictions of value for you or do see them as a bad thing?

What does Jesus say our purpose for living should become? Why?

Now is a good time to say as a loving group **The Lord's Prayer** all together. Please turn these sheets back in.

Write down any questions you may have and give them to your leader.

Feel free to write down a prayer request and give it to your leader.

Next week we will discuss *Forgiveness: How It Works*