

Chapter 1

I am Alive My early years

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some very important concepts of what it means, “To be alive” and some of the factors arising from this interesting topic. I would like to share some very interesting and life-changing encounters that eventually led me to accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and personal savior. We need to understand that true life is one having a real and intimate relationship with God through His son Jesus Christ. However, natural man has a different view on this matter. It is not about acquiring things or finding “religion.” A number of religions do not follow the way and teachings of Jesus Christ- the true way and life. The world has so many false teachings and concepts of what true relationship, is all about. Therefore, sadly they confuse it with true religion. My intention is to help dispel those corrupt teachings that have been circulating for many years in the world. Reader, most importantly things come and go, but having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only solid foundation on which you can stand.

We live in such a cold, sometimes-selfish, and evil world that we need more than just acquiring things to be happy and to be satisfied in life. True happiness is contentment and enjoying life in whatever state you are presently in. The Bible teaches:

“I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

Philippians 4:11b-12

What qualifies one to be alive?

I have either the “breath of Life” in me, or I just exist. I would like to attest to the fact that being alive is only possible by having a relationship with Jesus Christ. This was mentioned earlier and will be illustrated to you throughout this book. The choice is yours to make, and most importantly, only you can make That Choice.

We have too many people in the world today that have a major identity crisis or identity problem. You are alive because, God has breathed His breath of life into you and me for a definite purpose that is to bring honor and glory to Him. Because of this, I would like to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and savior, as well as, I did when I too came to realize Him in my life. Therefore, we are alive to demonstrate God’s purpose through you and me in this cold and callous world in which we presently live.

The spirit of selfishness has crept into the lives of people so much that they only think about themselves and sadly not the well-being of others. This has annoyed me about the way people think and conduct themselves. I am requesting you, my reader, to be sensitive to the needs of others because God has blessed you to be a blessing to others. I personally was not aware of this before, but now that the Lord has opened the eyes of my understanding, I now see how we ought to conduct ourselves toward our fellowmen. God has taught me His ways and I would like to share this teaching with others as well.

The intellectual definition of “Alive”

- Having life or not dead or inanimate.
- Still in existence.
- Marked by much life.
- Having life to fulfill or accomplish something worthwhile.

What do people consider “Alive?”

- Having a lot of money, driving the best cars, or living in the best neighborhood.
- Living a successful life, in that you know and socialize with the influential people in society. Those so-called “stars.”
- A Fancy lifestyle – eating and drinking the best.
- Attending the best schools or having the best jobs.
- Shopping at the best stores and going to the best restaurant.
- Attending renowned churches.
- Wearing designer clothing and others, that people consider symbol of success.
- Many people able to alter their physical appearance by cosmetics and surgical intervention.
- Altering their state of mind with drugs to make them feel alive.

Remember reader, some of these things are good to be enjoyed, (with the exception of the last 2 points) but they are not the absolute things in life. They are not the ultimate reasons, or conditions that qualify one to be alive.

I once had a very interesting conversation with a person who was about 50 years of age. He informed me that he had been wealthy by the World’s standard and now, he was broke financially. He further stated that having a

relationship with Jesus Christ made him feel “more alive” than just having had things to enjoy in life. Some people may call all these things great, but some may look at it as just vanity, “try chasing after the wind.” Solomon was considered the wisest and richest man after (Jesus Christ), yet he summed it up in one very interesting and profound statement in that, he said,

“I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.”

Ecclesiastes 1:14

I will take the pleasure in bursting your bubble by illustrating to you that this is not being alive. Having good things does not equate being alive in any way alone. For example, let us look at some of the millionaires in our society. In some cases, they are either on some form of depression medication or on drugs.

Take my case, I personally, thought I was alive in the sense that I had money to meet all my needs, was well educated, and had a very good job, as a Computer Science Lecturer (for 13 years, where my success rate was excellent), and the owner of 3 successful businesses, though I was dating some very beautiful women, reader, deep down inside my heart I felt I was missing something that would bring me true happiness and contentment. I was looking to external things to fill a void that I was missing internally.

In other words, I was hurting because I had set to look for satisfaction in things that the world would consider good, and not the joy and happiness of serving my savior, Jesus Christ, who created us to serve Him not things.

My spirit, man, was crying out to have a relationship and fellowship with Jesus – our soon and coming King. Reader, most importantly, we were created to have fellowship and worship our Almighty God. What it really means to be