

## 102 December 31, 2022 – Life & Truth

Recently in my local church a pastor for Indian Ministries talked through the Bible from The Garden of Eden to the Tribulation describing the steps of satan to try to circumvent the plan of God to provide Gods people eternal **life**. At the end of the service, he anointed each person with oil who willingly stepped over the threshold between the ways of the World and the ways of God and His Kingdom. As he anointed my head with oil with hands firmly on my forehead and my belly, he acknowledged a burning fire in me for Gods mission of ministry. He challenged me to pass my knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to the younger generations to grow them in new ministries. That is how God designed mankind and our lives after He established each of us at creation and predestined each of us for our destiny and end-of-life. Gods **life** comes to us like a “river of water” in the form of the **Holy Spirit**. The “Rivers of Living Waters” is first referenced in the Book of Genesis (Chapter 2) and last concluded with the “Rivers of Living Waters” in the Book of Revelation (Chapter 22). Water in the Bible has the power to purify and to provide deliverance in all situations - *“If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”* (John 4:10).

“**Life**” is one of the most common words in the English language. It is something to “live”, something to “spend”, something that begins and ends, something that is evaluated as “good” or “bad”, as “healthy” or “unhealthy”. But how is it actually defined? Is it defined by our culture, or does it have an intrinsic meaning that transcends how the culture uses the word? How we understand or define “**life**” affects pretty much everything we do, and likely not many people have actually spent time evaluating their understanding of “**life**,” but passively just accept how the culture defines it. “**Life**” is closely associated with “**truth**”, which suggests that the meaning of “**life**” is not dependent on people’s opinions or understanding of what it is. **It just is**. It transcends even language; therefore it requires that we examine the language we use to describe and define **life**, and the closer we can come to its actual intrinsic meaning, the closer we come to understanding “**truth**”. **Truth** originates from God (Yahweh/Jehovah) and his Son Jesus Christ, who is the “living Word of God.”

One of the “**truths**” found in the Scriptures is: *Love your neighbor as yourself*, and later, *Love your neighbor as I love you*. This is written in English, so to properly understand this **truth**, we need to define “love” and “neighbor,” which is generally defined by our culture and language. But if we understand how these English words are defined, we can properly communicate with each other about this **truth**. When we generally agree on how these words/concepts are defined, the **truth** of how that works out in our lives, is not something we can find in the Scriptures. Who I am supposed to be loving as my neighbor, will not usually be the same as who you are supposed to be loving as your neighbor, especially if we do not even know each other. The general principle of this **truth**, “love your neighbor as yourself,” is always true, but how that **truth** is applied to someone’s **life** or situation is not the same for everyone. And the knowledge of that kind of **truth** does not come from words written in a book, even if those words are true. It comes from a relationship with the Living Word of God.

