

August 14, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Rom. 14:8 *If we live, we live for the LORD; and if we die, we die for the LORD. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the LORD.* (NIV)

Paul speaks from a heart of complete surrender here. Did you notice that his whole purpose in life is to bring glory to the LORD? These were not empty words because he knew that sooner or later, following Jesus would bring him to death here on this earth. And, that was not a bad thing; in fact, he stated to the church at Philippi in **Phil. 1:21** *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.* (NIV)

Do we look at life from the LORD's perspective or from our own? When we see things from His standpoint, we see that all that matters is a life well lived for Him. Our selfish desires begin to fade away and His purposes begin to be carried out in our lives.

1 Cor. 6:19-20 emphasizes the same thought: *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies.* (NIV) Paul is telling the believers in Rome that a life well lived is lived totally for the LORD. If this is your last day on earth or if you have a thousand more, we should live it for the One Who has given us everything. That's what LORD really means. He is in complete charge and everything we do should be done to bring Him glory. The only way that can happen is for us to put to death our flesh every day, and live with our eyes fixed on Him and His purpose for us. We all struggle with this in our flesh. We must reckon ourselves dead to self and alive to Him. **Luke 9:23** *Then He said to them all: "Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow Me."* (NIV) It is in this *daily* walk that is do difficult, but so necessary. It can only be done in the Spirit. **Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.* (NIV)

Dear LORD, help us to crucify our flesh daily so that we can live for You. Your desire should be our own and Your ways should be our path. We must submit to You completely every day, all day long. In Jesus Name, Amen