

The Strength That Prevails
Resilient: Strength That Prevails
January 8, 2023

Notes

Jesus,

I come back to you now in my longing for life to be good again.

I love you here, Lord, in my soul's longings, desires, and heartaches.

I consecrate to you my primal drive for life.

I surrender to you my ability to aspire for good things, plan for them, take hold of them, enjoy them, and keep on aspiring.

I consecrate all living in me to you, Lord Jesus; I give you my famished craving for life to be good again.

I love you here. I love you right here. And now I ask that the river of your life would flow in me, in my primal drive for life and in my longing for life to be good again.

I open my heart and soul to the river of life. Let it flow in me, through me, and all around me—restoring, renewing, and healing me.

You alone are the life I see, and I welcome your river into my heart and soul; I receive the river of your life in me.

Thank you, God!

In your mighty name I pray, amen.

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read Daniel 7:25.

Who is the 'he' in this verse? What did Daniel predict 'he' would do? This prophecy of Daniel's has already been fulfilled. But the character of our enemy, Satan, is still the same today. How have you experienced him wearing you down?

The past few years have been filled with times of severe testing on both global and personal levels. How would you describe the current state of your soul – your mental, emotional, and spiritual health, as we begin a new year?

2. Read Luke 21:29-36.

In these verses, Jesus is giving His disciples encouragement about how to navigate difficult seasons. What instructions does He give in vs 34-36?

Where does the strength to overcome, to be victorious, to thrive, come from? [Also see Psalm 73:26, Philippians 4:13]

What are the specific ways your heart longs for life to be good again?

When the world leaves you overwhelmed and worn out, where do you turn for relief? Does doing so provide you with refreshment and restoration? Or only temporary distraction or relief?

3. Read Matthew 25:1-13.

What does the olive oil represent in this parable?

What can you learn from this story about the dangers of running out of the very thing you need most?

On a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 is empty and 10 is full, where are your reserves right now? Why?

4. Read Revelation 22:1-2 and John 7:37-38.

Are you being refilled and refreshed by the River of Life? If not, why not?