



Words

TO LIVE BY

Zoë

SEPTEMBER 2021

ZOË

Definition: *eternal life*.

The word, Zoë was written 135 times in the Greek New Testament. In the third century, Alexandrian Jews translated the Hebrew name Eve to its Greek equivalent, Zoë.

There are three different greek words for life in the Bible; Bios, Psuche and Zoë.

1. Bios refers to the life of the physical body. The English word *biology* comes from *bios*.
2. Psuche refers to the psychological life of the human soul, that is, the mind, emotion, and will. The English word *psychology* comes from *psuche*.
3. Zoë refers to the uncreated, eternal life of God, the divine life uniquely possessed by God.

All humans are born into an eternal death being separated from God because of their problem with sin. This is bad news for you. When you have a health problem and go to the Doctor to have tests done usually they come back with good and bad news. They ask you the question, *Do you want to hear the good news first or the bad news?* It's better to receive the bad news first so that the good news can give you hope for healing.

The same is true when it comes to your spiritual diagnosis. You must receive the bad news, that you are a sinner born into an eternal death before you can receive the good news that Jesus came, died on the cross to pay the debt for your sin and rose again to prove that you can put your faith in Him to give you eternal life.

Paul reminded the church in Rome of how sin entered this world, *"For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life (Zoë) through Jesus Christ our Lord."* Romans 5:19-21 NIV

The reason I want to encourage you to live by the word Zoë is because I want you to know and experience eternal life thru Jesus Christ that will last forever in heaven.

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14 NIV, *"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."*

My prayer for you is that if you have not already found the road that leads to Zoë (eternal) life that thru this study the Holy Spirit would convict you of your sin and reveal your need for Jesus to save you. I desire more than anything else for you to experience being rescued from an eternal death to an eternal life.

If you already are following Jesus my challenge to you this month is to live every day with eternity in mind. How are you spending your days here on this earth? Are you actively working alongside Jesus to rescue people from eternal death?

Jesus mission in coming to this earth was to bring mankind Zoë (eternal) life. In John 10:10 ESV Jesus says, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life (Zoë) and have it abundantly."*

WEEK 1: BREAD OF LIFE

In order to make a car run it needs to have gasoline put in it. This is like food for the vehicle. In order for you to survive as a human, not only do you need water to drink but you also need food to eat. This is how God made your body to work. When you fuel up with healthy, nutritious food, you create fuel that gives life to your body.

John 6:25-59 is of Jesus teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. Jesus refers to Himself as the, *bread of life*, but not just life...Zoë (eternal) life.

"When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, 'Rabbi, when did you get here?'

*Jesus answered, 'Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to **eternal life**, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.'*

Then they asked him, 'What must we do to do the works God requires?'

Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.'

So they asked him, 'What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said, 'always give us this bread.'

*Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have **eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day.'*

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They said, 'Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'

*'Stop grumbling among yourselves,' Jesus answered. 'No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. It is written in the Prophets: They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has **eternal life**. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came*

down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

*Jesus said to them, 'Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has **eternal life**, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.'* He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum." *John 6:25-59 NIV*

This account happens shortly after Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the 5000+ men, women and children. These people had just witnessed Jesus multiply the five loaves and two fish to feed a multitude. They wanted to see Jesus continue to provide for their earthly needs, but Jesus tells them they have greater spiritual needs. He tells them, *don't work for food that perishes but for food that leads to Zoë life*. This Zoë life is found in Him.

Jesus makes it very clear that to receive this Zoë life all they needed to do is believe in Him whom God the Father had sent.

The people move the conversation back to their history of living in the wilderness and remembering how manna was provided for them to eat. That manna was given by God but was never meant to fully satisfy them. That kind of bread they would need to eat over and over again. Jesus was helping them to think spiritually and telling them that just as God had provided manna for them back then, now God was providing spiritual bread for them in Jesus that would satisfy eternally.

God was giving them (and you) the bread of life in His Son, Jesus. The very familiar verse John 3:16-17 NIV says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have (Zoë) eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*

These people were having a hard time believing what Jesus said could be true. They wanted more signs and miracles to prove it. How about you? Have you come to a place of repentance from your sin and believed in Jesus death and resurrection for you? Or are you like those people who still are critical, wanting more signs and miracles to prove it. There is nothing more that you need to be convinced that Jesus gives Zoë life. To believe in Him takes faith. Are you willing to have faith and place your trust in Jesus for eternal life?

Maybe you've been a follower of Jesus for many years. How are you doing feeding on Jesus? Are you setting aside time daily to feast on His Words of truth? Are you making time to kneel

before Him in praise and prayer? Sometimes the things of this world can discourage and drag you down quickly. That is why you must fuel up on the Bread of Life.

Be encouraged by these words of truth from 1 John 5:11-13 NIV, *"...God has given us (Zoë) eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."*

WEEK 2: THE HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER

Have you ever listened to someone pray and it was life giving? Why would you say it gave you life? There have been times when I desperately needed someone to pray for me. When I reached out to a sister in Christ and she lifted me up in prayer it truly was life giving. The reason I can say that is because of the relationship that we both have with our Father in heaven and our desire to live according to His perfect plan for us. Our prayers give us life because they remind us of our Zoë (eternal life) given thru Jesus.

Today you will read a prayer that Jesus prayed to His Father known as, "The High Priestly Prayer." In this prayer, found in John 17, Jesus talks of the Zoë life that He offers to all people, including you.

"After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

*'Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give **eternal life** to all those you have given him. **Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one, I in them and you in me, so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” John 17 NIV

Every time I read this prayer it brings much comfort knowing this was Jesus prayer for His followers. One of the first things Jesus prayed is that you would come to have Zoë life in Him?

You cannot get eternal life thru anyone or anything else but Jesus alone. Too often in the world today you are told to look within yourself to find the good that is hidden within you. This will never lead you to the Zoë life you are searching for because scripture tells that you were born into this eternal death from sin. Romans 5:12 NIV says, *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”*

Remember, there is always hope. God’s wrath against sin had to be satisfied and Jesus was the only one who could accomplish this. God’s gift to you was sending Jesus to die in your place and rise again to bring you Zoë life. Romans 6:23 NIV reads, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is (Zoë) eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Pastor Craig Groeschel said, *“We don’t have eternal life because we’re good, we have it because God is good.”*

How often have you heard at funerals that someone was a good person and because of that people believe the person is in heaven? There are many “good” people that live on this earth but that in and of itself will never get you to heaven. You need the blood of Jesus to cover your sin by repenting and placing your faith in Him alone.

As a follower of Jesus there are many encouraging words that Jesus prayed for you in that prayer. He asked God to protect you from the evil one, give you joy, sanctify you in His truth, send you to share the gospel with others and be unified with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Here are some questions to ask yourself as a follower of Jesus:

- Are you guarding yourself from the evil one? (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- Are you experiencing true joy that comes from a relationship with Jesus? (Psalm 51:12, 71:23, Acts 2:28, Romans 15:13)
- Are you sanctifying yourself daily in God’s truth? (Psalm 119:105, John 17:17)
- Are you actively sharing the gospel with people? (Matthew 28:29-20, Mark 16:15)
- Are you striving for unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ? (Psalm 133:1, John 17:23, 1 Corinthians 1:10, 2 Corinthians 13:11)

When you actively live out Jesus' prayer for you, you will be living with the Zoë life mindset and will be ready to pray life giving prayers. Life giving prayers are prayers that are aligned with God's truth, His heart and His will. That is the example Jesus gave in John 17.

Charles Spurgeon once said, *"Time is short. Eternity is long. It is only reasonable that this short life be lived in the light of eternity."*

WEEK 3: SPEAK ZOË (LIFE)

If you knew that speaking the gospel of Zoë life found only in Jesus would result in persecution, prison or even death for you, would you still speak it? That is a tough question to answer. I'm sure many followers of Jesus would say yes immediately, but have you really stopped to think in that moment if you would? Jesus never said that following Him would be easy. He actually said it would be difficult and that this world will hate you just as it hated Him. Jesus calls His followers to deny themselves, take up their cross daily and follow Him.

Why would anyone go to such extremes to follow Jesus? It is because of what we talked about the first week, that all people are born into an eternal death. The only way you can receive Zoë life is thru Jesus death and resurrection for you. If He gave His life for you, would you be willing to give your life for Him? These are heavy questions to think about.

In today's passage you will read of the signs and wonders that the first apostles did thru the power of the Holy Spirit. During this time many people were surrendering their lives to Jesus and finding Zoë life in Him. The religious leaders became jealous with the apostles and ended up having them arrested and put in jail. Pick up the story in Acts 5:12 and notice what the angel of the Lord says to the apostles.

"The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon's Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed. Then the high priest and all his associates, who were members of the party of the Sadducees, were filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the jail and brought them out.

'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people all about this new (Zoë) life.' At daybreak they entered the temple courts, as they had been told, and began to teach the people.

When the high priest and his associates arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin—the full assembly of the elders of Israel—and sent to the jail for the apostles. But on arriving at the jail, the officers did not find them there. So they went back and reported, 'We found the jail securely locked, with the guards standing at the doors; but when we opened them, we found no one inside.' On hearing this report, the captain of the temple guard and the chief priests were at a loss, wondering what this might lead to.

Then someone came and said, 'Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.' At that, the captain went with his officers and brought the apostles. They did not use force, because they feared that the people would stone them.

The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,' he said. 'Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.' Peter and the other apostles replied: 'We must obey God rather than human beings! The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.'

When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: 'Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men. Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing. After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered. Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.'

His speech persuaded them. They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."

Acts 5:12-42 NIV

This passage has many things to ponder as you learn from the apostles example. The angel of the Lord came to free them from jail and tells them one thing, 'Go, stand in the temple courts,' he said, 'and tell the people all about this new (Zoë) life.' This was a command the angel gave them with specific instructions to speak of this Zoë life. The response of the apostles was immediate obedience.

The Pharisee, Gamaliel, spoke some interesting words to the other religious leaders, "Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

I love when he said, *if this is of human origin, it will fail, but if it is from God you will not be able to stop them.* Follower of Jesus, when you take a stand and speak of the Zoë life in Jesus no one will be able to stop you. It may feel like temporarily you are being stopped by people, but the only one who can really stop you from speaking Zoë life is you.

Are you taking every opportunity you are given to speak of Jesus and the Zoë life He gives?

The apostles ended up being beaten. Their response to it is convicting and challenging. Scripture says, *"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah."*

Do you rejoice when you are persecuted? I don't think that is usually the response believers in America give. I know for myself I have never experienced what many of my brothers and sisters in Christ experience on a daily basis when it comes to persecution. Maybe you feel persecuted when your feelings get hurt. That is not even comparable to what so many followers of Jesus go thru because of their boldness to speak Zoë. And they consider it an honor to suffer for their Savior.

Even though the religious leaders threw them in prison, it did not stop the apostles from being obedient to speak of Zoë life in Jesus. I believe the apostles were able to courageously speak because their hearts and minds were fixed on Zoë life.

Put yourself in their shoes. As a follower of Jesus if your heart and mind is set on Him and remembering all He did to give you Zoë life, you would be able to do the same thru the power of the Holy Spirit in you. Colossians 3:1-4 NIV says,

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

Maybe you've heard this Zoë life spoken to you for years and have never made the decision to repent of your sin and believe in Jesus death and resurrection for you. Charles Spurgeon once wrote, *"If His first coming does not give you eternal life, His second coming will not. If you do not hide in His wounds when He comes as your Savior, there will be no hiding place for you when He comes as your Judge."*

Friend, don't wait any longer. Come to Jesus today and receive Zoë life in Him. John 3:36 NIV says, *"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."*

Despite all the persecution the apostles faced, scripture says they *never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.*

Follower of Jesus, will you do the same?

Will you choose to speak boldly of Zoë life found in Jesus even when it's hard?

WEEK 4: JESUS IS THE RESURRECTION AND THE ZOË

I remember as a child in the Kid's Club at my church memorizing John 11:25 which says, "**Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'**" Once you memorize scripture it is hidden in your heart for good. There have been many times since then that God has brought that verse to mind.

This last summer in June, as I was visiting my parents in WI, my Mom was finishing up a week of hosting a 5-Day Bible Club at her home. My kids happened to be there for the last day. One of the things that they do each day of club is memorize a verse of scripture that they recite the following day to earn points. My kids had missed the first 4 days but their cousins helped them memorize the verse for the previous day of club. Wouldn't you know it, it was John 11:25. I specifically heard my son repeating it over and over and over to make sure he had it down word for word.

Those words of Jesus are powerful. He spoke them after His beloved friend, Lazarus had died. You find them written in the middle of John 11.

"Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is sick.'

When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.'

'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?'

Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.'

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.'

His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.'

Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.'

Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.'

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she replied, 'I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.'

After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. 'The Teacher is here,' she said, 'and is asking for you.' When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.'

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 'Where have you laid him?' he asked.

'Come and see, Lord,' they replied.

Jesus wept.

Then the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!'

But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 'Take away the stone,' he said.

'But, Lord,' said Martha, the sister of the dead man, 'by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.'

Then Jesus said, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?'

So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.'

When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, 'Take off the grave clothes and let him go.'" John 11:1-44 NIV

Now that you have read the verse within its context I want to unpack it some more. At the beginning of this month you learned that everyone is born into an eternal death because of sin. These words that Jesus spoke to Martha show that resurrecting life is found in Him alone. The word for life in John 11:25 is that greek word, Zoë meaning eternal life.

Zoë life is a free gift that Jesus offers to you. Jesus bought Zoë life for you when He chose to go to the cross willingly and die in your place to take the punishment that your sin deserves.

1 John 4:9-10 NIV reads, *"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."*

Notice God loved you first. You did nothing to earn this gift. Jesus did it all for you. JD Greear wrote in his book, GOSPEL *"In Christ, there is nothing I can do that will make You love me more and nothing I have done that makes You love me less."*

Jesus graciously offers you Zoë life when you repent of your sin and put your faith and trust in Him. John 14:6 Jesus said, *"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

As a follower of Jesus remind yourself daily that it was His death that bought you life. Do you see the contrast between those two words this month? Jesus is the only one who can rescue you from eternal death by bringing His Zoë life.

Closing out this month of living by the word, Zoë, I am reminded of Grandpa Mast who would always pray John 6:68, *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* Grandpa Mast passed away July 1, 2017 but I know without a doubt that he is fully experiencing Zoë life that he found in Jesus Christ.

As my husband and I strive to pass on the godly heritage to our children that was taught to us, I was encouraged this summer when I heard them memorizing the truth of Zoë life found in Jesus from John 11:25.

Billy Graham once said, *"Death is not the end of the road — it is merely a gateway to eternal life beyond the grave."*