

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN GROWTH OPEN SESSION
Divine Strategies - Living to fulfil Gods Divine Purpose for Your Life

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Session: "Divine Strategies - Die to Live"

Scriptures: Matthew 10:34-39

(Matthew 10:34-39)

34 "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';

36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'

37 He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

39 He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

INTRODUCTION

- Jesus the Prince of Peace says He did not come to bring peace but a sword (Matthew 10:34).
 - A sword is deadly because it pierces and cuts – it separates.
 - The Word of God is a sword that separates.

(Hebrews 4:12)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- Relationships (Matthew 10:35-36).
 - He has come to "set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother and a daughter in law against her mother in law."
 - "A man's enemies will be those of his own household."
- (Matthew 10:37)
 - Jesus said, "he who loves father or mother more than Me."
 - He did not say "do not love father or mother."
- (Matthew 10:38-39) "he who does not take his cross and follow after Me."
 - The cross is personal – not denominational, family or social.
 - Save your life, you lose it.
 - This is the way of the world- carnal living.
 - The Kingdom is not your priority and Jesus is not your first love.
 - Lose your life, you gain it.
 - This is to take your cross and follow Jesus.

(Colossians 3:1-3)

"If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

- “For you died” - Death is separation not annihilation or cessation of life.

(Psalm 116:15)

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.”

- Death is a portal or door.
- Physical death – spirit departs from the body.

(2 Corinthians 5:6)

Paul said “So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.”

- When Adam disobeyed God, Adam’s spirit was separated from the Spirit of God.
 - He died spiritually.
 - Death is coming out from one level to enter into another.
 - Death is not hopeless.
 - Illustration: Life in the womb of the mother.
- The Bible says:
 - To save our lives, is to lose it, to lose our lives, is to gain it.
 - Paul says, “we go from faith to faith, glory to glory.”
 - This cannot happen if we refuse to die.
 - We refuse to die because we have attached ourselves to this world and make it our home.
 - You cannot have what God has for you unless you give up what you have.
 - Jesus says “don’t save your life, lose it and you will have true life.”
 - To live is to die daily.
 - We need to die to grow and possess what God has for you.

There are 4 things that need to die

- Die to sin.

(Romans 6:1)

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?”

- Grace is bigger and stronger than sin.
- We must stop sinning.
- Jesus came to deliver us from sin and death.
- Die to your will.
 - We need to pray as Jesus prayed in the Garden.
 - You have not prayed this prayer when you:
 - Seek not first the Kingdom and His righteousness.
 - Live a life without a witness.
 - Live a life without using your gift for His glory.
- Die to self.
 - Live beyond our five senses: feel, touch, smell, hear and taste.
 - The life of the flesh is carnal.

- Die to self glory.
 - Do not worship what success brings.

(Luke 4:7)

The devil said to Jesus, “Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

Illustration (Isaiah 38:1-8) Hezekiah turn to live as a worship unto God.

- Isaiah was sent by God to Hezekiah with a death sentence and then walked away.

(Isaiah 38:1)

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.’ ”

- Hezekiah went through his past records and wept.

(Isaiah 38:2-3)

2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, 3 and said, “Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.” And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

- Hezekiah also said.

(Isaiah 38:18-19)

18 For Sheol cannot thank You, Death cannot praise You; Those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your truth. 19 The living, the living man, he shall praise You, As I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children.

- God said to Isaiah.

(Isaiah 38:5)

“Go and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.

- The turning point for Hezekiah was when he said, (Isaiah 38:19)

The living, the living man, he shall praise You” (Verse 19).

- Gratefulness and praise gets God’s attention.
- God created you to praise and worship Him.

E.g. Paul and Silas – Praise will get you out of prison.

CONCLUSION

- Don’t fight death. Be willing to die.
- Jesus said, “Take up your cross and follow me.”