

# A NEW WAY OF LIVING

1 John 5:16-21

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades  
January 30, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Please open 1 John 5:16 ... At the end of John's letter to strugglers, exhausted. Page 864.

Church that had started with a bang, was 50 years old. Hitting 50 can be tough, individual or institution. They were worn out. Spiritual life, more of a burden, crush. Ill. Member .. grown stale, need fresh. Early church from Generate to habit to toxic. No longer spiritually alive ... Exhausted ... Discouraged? Discouraged by sin of others, our own sin, unspeakable evil in the world, wavering allegiances.

## What to do if you want to come alive ... or stay alive spiritually. vv. 16-17

<sup>16</sup> *If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that.* <sup>17</sup> *All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.*

## Instead of getting discouraged by believers who sin, try praying for them ...

1. The best way to have an impact on someone else's life is to pray for them and watch God work. ill. Parent child. Friends. Husband wife. TOXIC. Can't change them, only love them. Give them to God, only God can heal them.

## Here's what to do if you want to come alive ... or stay alive spiritually.

## Instead of getting discouraged by believers who sin, try praying for them ... vv. 16-17

<sup>18</sup> *We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.*

## Instead of living under a pile of guilt yourself, run into the safety of Jesus' arms ... v. 18

We are not sinless. ... once saved we, believers, can and do sin.

But when we do sin, come to Jesus again and again to escape the condemnation of the accuser ... no good.

**1 John 1:9** *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.* Agreeing.

Spiritual life grows stale when focus on sin of others and neglect our own. Jesus speck and log.

*Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV84)* <sup>3</sup> *"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no*

*attention to the plank in your own eye?* <sup>4</sup> *How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye?* <sup>5</sup> *You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.*

To keep it fresh and alive, we need to come to Jesus in confession ... practice lifestyle of confession.

Ill. as a boy of eight, I confessed every night. I had the idea that I had to remember them all. Over the course of life, I grew more comfortable and my times of confession became infrequent.

## What to do if you want to come alive ... or stay alive spiritually.

## Instead of getting discouraged by believers who sin, try praying for them ... vv. 16-17

## Instead of living under a pile of guilt yourself, run into the safety of Jesus' arms ... v. 18

<sup>19</sup> *We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

## Instead of living in shock, remember who is in control of this world ... v. 19

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN ... Wars, Tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, oppressive regimes, ethnic cleansing, disease and starvation ... WHY? God has given Satan control.

This explains why unspeakable evil runs amok. Bad things happen because Satan rules the world.

Instead of blaming God for everything bad that happens, let's blame one who is truly responsible.

Not looking to find devil behind every bush. Devil made me do it, not focused, not fearful, just aware.

We long for heaven, but this is not it. This is earth. Under the power of the evil one.

Yet because we live under God's rule, we are safe. Nothing can touch us. NOTHING.

**Desert Song** – *And I will bring praise, I will bring praise, No weapon forged against me shall remain*

*I will rejoice, I will declare, God is my victory and He is here*

We can't afford to live in separation or detachment, called to reach out in compassion and involvement.

**What to do if you want to come alive ... or stay alive spiritually.**

**Instead of getting discouraged by believers who sin, try praying for them ... vv. 16-17**

**Instead of living under a pile of guilt yourself, run into the safety of Jesus' arms ... v. 18**

**Instead of living in shock, remember who is in control of this world ... v. 19**

<sup>20</sup> *We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*

<sup>21</sup> *Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.*

**Instead of clinging to idols, let go of them and latch onto God ... vv. 20,21**

John doesn't say we have understanding because we know the truth ... says we know HIM who is the true God and eternal life. CRUCIAL DISTINCTION.

Eternal Life is found in FELLOWSHIP with Jesus and is lived out in fellowship with each other.

***1 John 1:3 (NIV84) <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.***

Conclusion ...

Ill. Generative, habitual, toxic ... with Jesus? Discouraged ... dying rather than living?

Pray for sinners, confess your sin, live under God's protection and put your hope in Jesus alone.

When all else fail, Jesus doesn't. He does not disappoint. Stay connected to Him, you'll come alive.