The Life of God

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Hosea 7:1—*When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.*

*2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.*

*There was no one type of vice among them, but that they were subject to all wickedness, both secret and open.*

*God explains though he had employed every means for reforming Israel, they still persisted in their iniquity, without fearing the consequences,*

* *Unbelief, disbelief or neglect to believe* 
  + *God's omniscience*
  + *God’s government was at the bottom of all their wickedness*
  + *God has an eternal mind that can never be unmindful*
  + *God has an eternal eye that can never be blind*

*As soon as one wound was healed, another was discovered. Scarcely was one sin blotted out till another was committed.*

*substituted worship of Jehovah with golden calves; it ended in a universal corruption of morals, extending alike to rulers and subjects; filling the land with adultery ,drunkenness, , fraud, violence, murder, sedition, and anarchy, and making it an easy prey to its enemies.*

*Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.*

*Ho 7:4 They are all adulterers, as an* ***oven heated*** *by the baker, who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.*

*5 In the day of our king the princes have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorners. (Wine is to sin like oil to fire)*

*6 For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whiles they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire.*

*7 They are all hot as an oven, and have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: there is none among them that calleth unto me.*

*The burning fire must be distinguished by the Grace of God or will face the wrath of God.*

*Rev. 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

Eph 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

1.  Unbelievers walk in the *vanity of their mind* ([Ephes. 4:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A17)). The *mind* includes the ability to will and to do the truth as well as know the truth; it includes morality as well as reasoning and understanding. The word "vain" means empty, futile, senseless, aimless, unsuccessful, worthless.

When men push God out of their minds, their minds are void and empty of God and of His truth and morality. ***God is not in their thoughts***. Their minds are ready to be filled with some other thought, that is, with the things of the world:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| •  worldly pleasures  •  worldly possessions  •  worldly power  •  worldly position | •  worldly religions  •  worldly ideas  •  worldly honor  •  worldly gods |

And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" ([Genesis 6:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ge+6%3A5)).

The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts" ([Psalm 10:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+10%3A4)). The lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity" ([Psalm 94:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+94%3A11)).

These six things doth the lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies and he that soweth discord among brethren" ([Proverbs 6:16-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+6%3A16-19)). The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the lord" ([Proverbs 15:26](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+15%3A26)).

The mind of man walks after these things, neglecting, ignoring, and rejecting God. The believer must never return to the *walk of an empty mind*; he must never again allow his mind to become empty of God and not consider God.

2.  Unbelievers walk with their *understanding darkened* ([Ephes. 4:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A18)). To *understand* means to grasp, comprehend, perceive. To be *darkened* means to be blinded and unable to see, grasp or understand God; his understanding is darkened and blinded and unable to see God. He often understands this world and the things of this world, and he gives his life over to the things of this world. But he is not able to understand God and His eternal plan for the world through the Lord Jesus Christ.

The believer is not to allow his understanding to become darkened. He is not to return to the world of the spiritually blind, the world of those who walk with darkened understanding.

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course" ([Psalm 82:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+82%3A5)).

Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness" ([Prov. 2:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+2%3A13)).

19—*None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.*

The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble" [Pr 4:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Pr+4%3A19)

For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them" ([Acts 28:27](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+28%3A27)).

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" ([2 Cor. 4:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Co+4%3A4)).

Having the understanding darkened, being **alienated from the life of God** through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart" ([Ephes. 4:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A18)).

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" ([2 Tim. 3:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Ti+3%3A7)).

3.  Unbelievers walk *alienated from the life of God*. Unbelievers are spiritually dead and doomed to eternal death. "Alienated" means to be estranged, separated, cut off, detached. There are always unfriendly or hostile feelings involved in alienation. The unbeliever is *alienated* from the life of God. He is...

•  estranged from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.

•  separated from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.

•  cut off from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.

•  detached from God with unfriendly or hostile feelings.

Why? Not because of God. The Bible is clear about this issue. Unbelievers are alienated from God because of their own wilful ignorance and hardness of heart. The word "blindness" is the word hardness (*pōrōsis*[PWS: 408](http://www.crossbooks.com/book.asp?pub=0&book=748&tocpath=B\#408: Blindness)) in the Greek. Note the words "in them." The cause is "in them":

⇒  They choose to be ignorant within their minds—choose to be ignorant of God.

⇒  They choose to harden their own hearts.

Unbelievers are responsible for their own death. God has provided the fountain of life for man, the way for man to live forever. God had given His life, that is, eternal life, to man. The only way man can ever miss God's gift of eternal life is to reject God and His gift.

 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" ([Matthew 15:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+15%3A8)).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil" ([John 3:16-19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jn+3%3A16-19)).

That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world" ([Ephes. 2:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+2%3A12)).

But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" ([1 Tim. 5:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+5%3A6)).

The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies" ([Psalm 58:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ps+58%3A3)).

Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?" ([Jeremiah 2:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jer+2%3A5)).

That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols" ([Ezekiel 14:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+14%3A5)).

4.  Unbelievers are *past feeling* that is, they reach a point where they no longer have feelings for God and His standard of morality. It means to become callous, insensible, hardened. The more a person walks without God the more callous a person becomes to God. The more a person walks in sin, the more callous his conscience becomes to righteousness. Sin becomes more and more acceptable. The person's conscience no longer bothers him. He reaches a point of being *past feeling*. The believer is not to return to sin. He is not to walk as other men walk—in sin, becoming callous and insensitive to God.

Mt 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness" ([Ephes. 4:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+4%3A19)).

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" ([1 Tim. 4:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Ti+4%3A2)).

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing" ([Heb. 5:11](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Heb+5%3A11)).

5.  Unbelievers give themselves over to lasciviousness, to all forms of sensual living  6.  Unbelievers indulge in all uncleanness with greediness. The word "uncleanness" means to be dirty and filthy; to be infested with every kind of unclean, immoral, polluted behavior. It is the most immoral behavior imaginable. It is *unbridled lust* turned loose.

But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" ([Matthew 5:28](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Mt+5%3A28)). I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness" ([Romans 6:19](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+6%3A19)). But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints" ([Ephes. 5:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eph+5%3A3)). For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness" ([1 Thes. 4:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=1Th+4%3A7)).

7.  The word "greediness" means avarice, coveting, craving, grasping, desiring to have more and more; hoarding all one can get and still craving more. It is being enslaved and held in bondage by the things of this earth: for example, food, drink, and a host of fleshly sins and self-centered behavior.

Believers are not to walk in such a life. They are not to walk as other men walk.

And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness" ([Ezek 33:31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Eze+33%3A31)).

Woe to him that coveteth an evil covetousness to his house, that he may set his nest on high, that he may be delivered from the power of evil!" ([Habakkuk 2:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Hab+2%3A9)).

And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" ([Luke 12:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+12%3A15)).

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry [Col 3:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Col+3%3A5)

**2.** the believer is to *walk in Christ*. He is not to walk as men walk. The true walk is a walk in Christ, and a walk in Christ involves three actions.

1.  The believer is to *put off the old man*

2.  The believer is to be *renewed in the spirit of his mind*

Ro 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

1Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

1Pe 5:6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

3.  The believer is to *put on the new man*