

Life that enjoys the true life (1Jn. 5:11-15)

Today's message is entitled the life that enjoys the true life. Those who enjoy Christ are living the true life. Verse 11 says, "And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son." It says that this life is in his son that is why when you enjoy Christ you are enjoying the true life. God has placed his eternal life inside of Jesus Christ his son and whoever gains his Son gains life. In other words it means that you have received salvation. That means that you have been liberated from all curses and disasters. That is why when you accurately receive and enjoy Christ you will be able to enjoy the true life. In other words you will be able to live a life that is worth living. May you live a life that is worth living. There are those who have heard the gospel of Jesus Christ but yet they lack to believe nor enjoy to which they have no choice but to live a life of death. In other words they have no choice but to live life with the symptoms of death. What are the symptoms of death? Agony, worries, concerns, discouragement, anger, and jealousy are all symptoms of death. All of your emotions that bring such agony and pain to you are the symptoms of death. Of course, as you live your life you face problems. There is nothing more terrible for you to go through all sorts of problems when you are not able to have the solution to come out of it. But there is a reason why God permits problems in your life. It is because the problem that you face is not always bad. Dr. Paul Brand, a renowned surgeon, wrote a book entitled *The Gift of Pain*. Because you have pain within your body you are able to acknowledge that you are sick. You must be able to know that you are sick then you can be healed from it. There is one person that I knew who had hemorrhoids and had to go to the hospital. Later he came to find out that it wasn't a hemorrhoid rather a cancer in the rectum. All the family heard the news that he had cancer and were dumbfounded but he himself was so happy to come to realize earlier that he had cancer. His perspective was different. Now that person has fully recovered and is living a healthy life. It's the same for all the problems that we face. Of course, at first it may seem like a big problem to you but later you come to see that it was a blessing. This is how the world is. It's not only the problems that you face that you view. It is also God's commission that he has given to you. God has called you as a witness of Christ and evangelist for world evangelism. You will come to realize that this is the greatest blessing that God has given to you. But when Satan comes and deceives you, your point of view changes. When you are being deceived by Satan you may have the thought I live a bust and hasty life. Why must I devote myself to the church? Why do I have to give my hard earned money to God? Of course, I am not speaking on your behalf. There are times that you fall into concerns whenever you face a problem that you can never resolve such as a problem with your children and problems that you cannot solve on your own. But there is a truth that God reveals to you. John 5:24 says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life." God already knows that you are stand-

ing before problems and hardships that you can never solve. That is why he has sent Jesus Christ to you. He sent Christ ahead. Before you had faith he planned everything and completed it. It's not that you will path from death to life, you have passed from death to life. You must have faith in this. May you never forget that you are living the life that has already received God's grace. It is not a life that you anticipate of what is to come or what will be done. You only live one life. We who have no choice but to live within the problem and sufferings upon our lives, God gives us the answer. Within all the problems you can change it to a blessing. Many will look down on you in your life but yet God sees it differently. He says I will use your life for the sake of my kingdom. That is the reason why he has given you Christ. By his righteousness you no longer see the problem as a problem, you are able to see that as a blessing. Because you are able to see the problem as a blessing you are able to see that as an answer. I do believe that we will stand as a witness of world evangelization because we are able to give this answer to others. In verse 13 it says, "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." God desires for you to come to know that you have this greatest blessing upon you. May you never forget that you already possess this authority that God has given to you. That is why it is not your duty to live the life that enjoys the true life. That is the greatest blessing God has given to you. In the depths of your heart, may you yearn for it as you live your life. God has promised you so that as long as you live to enjoy it, God will allow you to live the true life that He has given to you. There are a few things that you must be reminded of as he gives you the true life.

1. Decide who You are

Firstly, you must decide who you are. You must be able to confirm, acknowledge, and decide that you are a child of God, His people, and His covenantal people. You must be able to stand before God, as you resolve inside of your heart that you have been chosen by God. May you question yourself if you are a person that can live with the world or with God. It is right of you to ask yourself but it is not an easy question because you must give up valuable things in your life. However, you must ask this to yourself. You all know it so well, but this must become yours. To be honest, if you dislike something, you will not like it whatsoever. It states in Romans 10:10, "For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." May you never forget this. There are two levels of faith that are completed. First, you must be able to know it. Then you would believe in it. The moment you are able to believe in and have faith in it, it will be completed. Last month, I went to get a blood check-up, but they told me that I have high cholesterol. The doctor told me that I do not have a severe high cholesterol, which is why he suggested that I try to fix it with the food that I intake. He told me that I should not intake high-fat foods, sweets, or espresso, which I truly love. He said that I must eat lots of dietary fibers, so I researched all of those foods which is why I had a better understanding. Just because I understand it does not mean

that my cholesterol would go down. It will only decrease if I take action to control the food that I intake. From then on, I have not had espresso because it no longer has a great taste. I still hope that my cholesterol has decreased. With your heart, you may believe. But once you are able to resolve inside of your heart and confess with your mouth, you will be saved. Once you are saved, there are tremendous blessings that are waiting for you. Verse 12 states, “Whoever has the Son has life; Whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” When Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God, comes into your life, he will live on your behalf. You will gain the power to overcome all the problems and sufferings that you face because he is living in your stead. No one is able to check upon this. Is there anyone who can judge or check-up on whether you are abiding by God or not? No, you are the one who decides upon it. You are able to change your life whether you are able to change your life as a child of God. May you all truly resolve in your heart that you will live your life as a person of God until the very end. God is not the one that changes the world, He changes you. Have you changed? May you truly have faith that it is God who is leading your life up until the time you receive Him. There are times in which you face problems when you lack faith in God alone to which you are anxious and have fear. If God's word is not incorrect, then you must quickly realize that you are the cause of it. The moment Jesus Christ came inside of your heart, he has overturned all of your fate and destiny. In the past, you were your own self whenever Satan would attack to which you were shaken. But now, you are a new created version of yourself in which Jesus Christ abides in you because he is the one that crushed the serpent's head. You are no longer shaken by that. The Lord asks for nothing else, but to have faith in Him. He says that when you have faith, He will give it to you. Whenever one gives a gift, there is one that gives it and one that receives it. God did not force you to become a witness for world evangelism. If He forced you, there would be no such thing as sin. God, through the fellowship that we have, desires to receive the utmost praise. That is why God has prepared all things and has given you the right to decide. How can we say that it is rightful to choose whatever we desire? But, God will do all things on your behalf. I believe that you will be able to live the life that enjoys eternal life when we are able to know and follow after God's desire. Please do not be discouraged by your state right now, but have the full conviction as a child of God who enjoys the true life given to you. What does it matter what others say, if you see yourself as a disciple. Do not worry about other's say. May you be convicted of your identity to which other's words do not matter. Jesus asked the disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” He was not concerned about what others would think of him. I believe that you will be able to live the true life God has given to you when you enjoy it and resolve in your heart and stand before God.

2. Enjoy in Prayer

May you enjoy the true life God has given to you as a child of God in prayer. It's stated in verse 14, “And this is the con-

fidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.” God hears your prayer. What kind of prayer does He listen to? He listens to the prayer you do according to His will. You'll be able to enjoy the true life given to you when you are in the prayer that asks for His will to be done. The walk of faith is looking to God. In every circumstance you are in, you must look to God and seek His will. Through that, you will be able to uncover His desire. The walk of faith is enjoying everything as you abide in Him. As you seek and look to God, your disbeliefs will be uncovered. You will uncover scars, motives, and selfish desires that you have. Not only that, but when you continuously uncover the love and plan He has for you, you will come to see that you were so narrow minded. You will come to discover that you were such a selfish person. And when you're able to see His love and truly click with Christ, you will uncover the liberation you gained from all the things that were imprinted. And once you are liberated from all of that, you will be able to live a mature walk of faith. That is what a walk of faith is. For example, you visit someone's house, and the place is very tidy. After returning home, a normal person would think, “I should clean my own house as well.” They'll come to see that there are so many things they don't need. They would change their own home rather than ruining the other person's home. When you continuously meditate on the great love that He gives you who are so lacking and you uncover his plan, you who are weak and lacking will be changed. Through that, you will have liberation, and you will be able to uncover yourself and change yourself as you grow. This is a sure fact. May you have faith that He will change your life. He's the one that can restore the dry bones back to life if you just look to Him. Why do you think God told us to pray? Prayer is to seek God's will. Why does God tell you not to seek after your will but His will? Only when you seek after His will inside of prayer will you be able to uncover an dbe liberated from all the snares yu oare trapped in. Only when you look to Him in prayer will you be able to have victory with the power of Christ. That is whte reason why God has given you prayer. He desires for you to be inside the prayer that seeks after His will so that you can enjoy the true life He has given to you. He has given you prayer so that you can be revived. Do you believe in this? He has given you prayer so that you can be saved. Whether it be the covenantal prayer, 24-hour prayer, or any other prayer, it doesn't matter. All that matters is that the prayer looks towards the Lord and seeks after His will. So may you look to the Lord. When you continuously look toward the Lord, you will be liberated. Then, you will be able to live the life that is overflowing with His power. That is the reason why He has given you prayer. And at times, when you pray, you may incorrectly pray. Prayer itself is a time to look to the Lord so that you will be liberated from all the deception of Satan that you are ensnared by. However, your own prayer needs you to not do that. When you seek after your own prayer, your own will, your own plan, in other words, you just want to borrow God's power so that you can fulfill what you desire. God already knows you very well. God watches you even now. Regardless of that, we fall into the incorrect prayer, asking

God to look at you. That is a prayer in which you do not enjoy the life God has given you to you but rather you put aside the life He has given to you. May you remind yourself, the more you look at what you desire and your own will, the further you are from God. 15 years ago, I served another church, and there was a young adult who liked a girl. However, she did not like him. So, he came up to me and, because he wanted to date her, he said, "I will come to early morning prayer for 40 days so that my prayer is answered." Of course, there is power in prayer. In two weeks, there were results. Then, in two weeks, the girl ended up having an affair. God took care of that very quickly. Another person asked me this prayer request. "I'm about to start a business, and if God allows me such a profit, I will give 50% of that as a mission offering. So, please fervently pray for me." So I asked him, "How much profit is necessary for the 50%?" He said, "One year of profit will be about one million dollars." To be honest, he had started a big business. This is not a prayer. This is more of a threat towards God. "God, if you want me to give you 50% as an offering, you must allow a million dollars of profit." The other young adult was threatening God, "If you want me to give worship to you for 40 days, let me be with the woman I want to be with." "There are those who fast for 40 days, so I will do fasting prayer but along the way I may die. God, if you do not listen to me, it is your fault." They may say that it was never the intention. Did I explain it to you too extremely? To that extent, you must look back at yourself as well. God is not a fool, he knows everything. May you carefully think about this. For example, you have an acquaintance and within this friendship you desire each other's company and desire to help each other out. Later on, you will become friends. There are other cases where one may be so kind on the outside but deep inside they actually resent you. They may have expectations for you and gain profits from you, then can you truly have true company and a good relationship with them? If someone had these hidden motives as they approached me, I would not be acquainted with them. To be honest, we must pray seeking after God's will and seek fellowship with God. Instead, we threaten God and pray according to our own will, this is incorrect. What is your confession of faith? It is God who has completely created you and you must have faith that he is perfectly guiding your life in his absolute plan. All you have to do is to know his will. Then you will have victory in all things you do. Once you are able to restore the correct relationship with God and abide in him, you are able to rightfully enjoy the true life he has given to you. In the midst of crises, he will overturn your life and live a life worth living. May you believe in this.

Enjoy God

In conclusion I want to say one more thing to you. May you enjoy God. This is a conclusion that we must be able to hold onto as we live our lives. Do not enjoy anything else, enjoy God. You all know about the Westminster Catechism. There is a section where they ask questions that you must respond to. "What is the chief and highest end of man?" "Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully enjoy him forever." The greatest goal for all

mankind is to glorify God and enjoy him eternally. That is why you testify the gospel and stand as a witness. That is why you live holding onto the covenant. When you fall in love with someone, you are able to enjoy their company. All parents who have children, you must understand this. Because my children are grown up now, there are times where one of my children will not come home. Once in a while, we will gather together and have a meal. What benefit is there to watch my children eat so well? Regardless of that, as we witness our children eating well, we get so happy and it brings us joy. If you go out to a coffee shop with someone you love, it does not matter how the coffee tastes. Rather, you are able to enjoy the company of who is with you. When you are able to enjoy God, whatever takes place in your life becomes enjoyable as well. What is more amazing is that he first enjoyed us before we enjoyed him. He first loved us and wanted to be with us. That is why he gave us Jesus Christ. In John 1:12, it says, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." For us to receive the right to become children of God, what did God do for us? He laid himself down and died for our behalf on the cross, so that he could be with us. Why did he do that? In Zephaniah 3:17, it says, "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." Because he rejoiced in being with us, he has died on the cross to give us salvation. That is why you must enjoy him as well. There are so many times that people lose the importance of worship and their spiritual strength. Of course, there is nothing wrong with that. All you have to do is to be strengthened again. It is because God watches over the church and it is God who does all things. The reason why many people fail and have lost all joy is because they have truly lost hold of what is important. As you live your life, you enjoy and testify the gospel. However, this is not God's standard. God only has one standard. It is to truly ask yourself if you truly believe Jesus is the Christ. How can you show evidence that you truly believe in Christ? You are able to show evidence when you are living with Christ and for Christ. That is how you will be able to live the covenantal life. That is how the true life God has given to you can be revealed. As a pastor I am able to see many people who try and hold onto the covenant with their own strength and efforts. That is great but I do want to tell you that those who use their own efforts can never beat those who enjoy the gospel. If you put in your efforts, you will not be able to enjoy it, so may you put in the effort to look to the Lord and enjoy God. I do believe that all of your life will be overturned into the true life he has given to you. I do believe that when you enjoy the true life God has given to you, you will live the life full of answers of the unprecedented and never repeated. I bless you all in the name of the Lord that you will be able to enjoy this covenant.