

Wonder of Life

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Introduction



Today, we will talk about the wonder of life.



Before we can talk about the wonder of life,
we need to understand what life is.



Just what exactly is life? Can anyone define life? Is living life or life living? Is it the ability to live that gives life or is it life that gives ability to live?



NASA has a special interest to find a definition to life. In its search for extraterrestrial life form, NASA needs a working definition of life if they are to identify living things beyond Earth. The search for an answer has been evasive.



“We don’t have a very good definition of life,”
said researcher Christopher Voigt of the
University of California, San Francisco,
who works on synthetic biology.



“It’s a very abstract thing, what we call life,
and at what point we say something
doesn’t have the necessary components
versus it does, it just becomes way too
murky.”



The question of what constitutes life has dogged scientists since the early days.



Definition of Life



Aristotle was the first to attempt to define life. His proposal boils down to life being something that grows and maintains itself, and reproduces. But, many nonliving things, like fire, can do that.



Others have suggested that life is something that can metabolize — that is, take in energy to move or grow, and release waste — but again, many nonliving things, like cars, can do that too.



“Life, because it is such a complex system of things with so many interacting parts, each of which is essential, it’s really tough to make a definition,” said biochemist David Deamer of the University of California, Santa Cruz.



To many people, life is not only complex; it is mysterious. Life is a mystery.



Solomon describes life as vanity of vanities.

The physical corporal life we know is temporary – here today, gone tomorrow.

That is the reality of life.



Solomon said it is vanity of vanities – a grievous thing under the sun. Job eloquently encapsulates the concept of life in his exposition in Job 14:1-5.



Job 14:1-5

- 1 “Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble.
- 2 They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure.
- 3 Do you fix your eye on them? Will you bring them before you for judgment?



Job 14:1-5

4 Who can bring what is pure from the impure? No one!

5 A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed.



Indeed, God has set a limit that man shall
not exceed.



Life is a Gift

Where did life come from? Earth, our home is teeming with life.



Of the 300 sextillion stars in the universe, only Earth teems with life. Astronomers have not found any life form in our solar system or the nearby galaxies.



The Bible says we are unique in the universe. Only Earth teems with life.



Romans 8:18-22

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.



Romans 8:18-22

20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.



Romans 8:18-22

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.



Look at nature and you instinctively know
that there is a Creator. Life only comes
from life.



Life is a gift – a wonderful gift from God.



Ecclesiastes 5:18

18 This is what I have observed to be good: that it is appropriate for a person to eat, to drink and to find satisfaction in their toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given them—for this is their lot.



Of all God's creation, man is special. God prepared man's habitat for 5 days before creating man on the sixth day.



The entire creation and fashioning of the Earth is for man. The atmosphere, vegetation and animal life are part of the ecology that sustains human life.



All living things were created after its own kind. Except man, who is fashioned in the image and likeness of the Creator – the God kind.



And again, of all the creations, God only
breathed into the nostril of man. The spirit
– the life source – that God put in man
makes man unique. It endowed him with
intellect, reason, logic, feeling, emotion
and creativity.



Life is a gift from God. To live and
experience life is a gift in itself!



To be alive, aware, conscious, active,
functioning and sustaining is to be God-
like.



What we are experiencing today – this physical mortal life – is a preview of what God is like.



As written in Genesis, “we are created in the image and likeness of God.” Image and likeness are beyond the physical shape and form, creativity and intelligence.



There is almost this God-like attribute of self-awareness – of being alive. Temporal as this physical life maybe, man has a spark of divinity when God breathed into the nostrils of man – man became a living human being.



Genesis 2:7

7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.



The key word is LIVING. Life is God's gift to us and this gift can be perpetual, permanent and eternal.



Wonderfully Made



Psalm 139:14

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”



The perspective of this verse is the amazing nature of the human body and potential.



The Hebrew word that is translated as “fearfully” is “yare.” In Vine’s Dictionary “yare” means “to be afraid, stand in awe, fear”.



When used of an exalted person, it means “standing in awe”. This implies honor, reverence and respect for the person.



To be “fearfully” made means to be
“awesomely” made. When we consider
our physical construction, we are indeed
wonderful.



The human body is the most complex and unique life form on earth. We are created with such complexity, superiority and ingenuity that reflect the image of our Creator.



Every aspect of our body, from the DNA to the cellular structure, reveals that we are fearfully and wonderfully made.



What we are and what we are capable of in intellect, reason, logic, emotion and creativity can never be a product of random evolution.



Life is a product of design. We are the most perfect life form because of our physical structure - a centralized brain, a pair of eyes, hands and feet and an upright torso for balance and to house all the vital organs. We are the handiwork of God.



The human brain is an amazing organ. It has the ability to learn, retain knowledge, reason, and control so many automatic functions of the body such as heart rate, blood pressure, and breathing, and to maintain balance to walk, run, stand, jump and sit, all while concentrating on something else.



The brain also has an amazing cognitive ability and adaptability.



When you hold a picture upside down, your brain tells you that something is wrong and recognizes the picture to be upside down.



In an experiment, when people put on glasses that made the world seem upside down, their brains quickly reinterpreted the information they were being given to perceive the world as “right-side-up.”



When people move to a house near a railroad, soon the sound of the trains is filtered out by their brains, and they lose conscious thought of the noise.



Only a human brain can do that!



Consider the single fertilized cell of a newly conceived human being. From that one cell within the womb, all the different kinds of tissues, organs, and systems develop. All are working together at just the right time in an amazingly coordinated process.



For instance, information needed for the replication of an entire human body, with every detail covered, is stored in the double-helix DNA strand found in the nucleus of each of the billions of cells in the human body.



The functions of the human body are incredible. The ability to handle large, heavy objects and also to carefully manipulate a delicate object without breaking is amazing. This is attributed to the perfect design of the human torso and limbs, and the hands and feet.



We can play games, like baseball (hitting a curve ball), football (kicking the football with extreme accuracy) and basketball (repeatedly shooting the basketball in a distant target) and we run, walk, jump, climb, swim, dance, drive and perform “simple” tasks such as typing, combing our hair, brushing our teeth, and picking our nose — without thinking.



Yes, these are “simple” tasks, but only man is able to perform such a vast range of tasks and motions no animal or machine can ever perform.



Now, consider our pair of eyes. It comes in pairs so we can judge distance and depth.



Life and Death



The vanity of life is that it ends in death. In the Garden of Eden, God instructed the first pair of humans saying: “The day that you eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil you shall surely die.”



This simple instruction suggests two (2) things:

1. Life continues as long as they stay obedient and not eat of the forbidden fruit.
2. Death is a consequence. It is the result of willful disobedience.



From this instruction, we understand that death is a penalty for disobedience and is the wage of sin.



Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Death, therefore, is not part of God's original plan for mankind.



In ancient times, people lived long and healthy lives. Adam lived for 930 years, Methuselah 969 years, and Enoch 750 years.



If Adam and Eve did not sin, death would not have entered the world. Life would be abundant and sustaining until now.



God takes no pleasure in the death of man.
It is God's wish that all come to
repentance and live.



1 Timothy 2:1-4

- 1 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—
- 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.



1 Timothy 2:1-4

3 This is good, and pleases God our Savior,
4 who wants **all people to be saved** and to
come to a knowledge of the truth.



Jesus said that God is the God of the living
and not of death.



Matthew 22:32

32 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."



If everyone of God's creation is dead, what is it to God? The glory of God is the creation of life.



2 Peter 1:1-4

- 1 Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:
- 2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.



2 Peter 1:1-4

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.



2 Peter 1:1-4

4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you **may participate in the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.



Death the Enemy



Life is existence. Death, on the other hand,
is oblivion.



Death is the absence of life. It is to go back to nothingness – being inert, unconscious and void. Death is not the opposite of life. Death is the enemy of life.



Can you imagine yourself becoming nothing,
devoid of awareness and memory, and
fading into oblivion never to experience
consciousness again?



The scripture says that there is no memory
in the grave



Ecclesiastes 9:5

5 For the living know that they will die, but the **dead know nothing**; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten.



Death takes its power from sin. Death first came into the world because one man sinned. And since that time, death reigns because all have sinned – including you and me.



Romans 5:12-21

12 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—

13 To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law.



Romans 5:12-21

14 Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come.



Romans 5:12-21

15 But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!



Romans 5:12-21

16 Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.



Romans 5:12-21

17 For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!



Romans 5:12-21

18 Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people.



Romans 5:12-21

19 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.



Romans 5:12-21

20 The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more,



Romans 5:12-21

21 so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Death is a grievous thing to be feared.



Hebrews 2:15

15 **and free those** who all their lives were held in slavery by **their fear of death.**



Fear of death is in all men. Death is not an option. Death is an aberration of God's plan of bringing many sons to glory. We were not supposed to die if we didn't sin. Nonetheless, we can do something about it.



Victory Over Death



Death is the enemy.



1 Corinthians 15:26

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



As an enemy, death can be defeated.
Mankind can overcome death and emerge
victorious.



Hosea 13:14

14 “I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death, are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction? “I will have no compassion,



There is a way to defeat this enemy. First,
by knowing what it is. It is a penalty for sin.



Second, know how it operates. The power of sin is death. Third, turn back to original righteous way.



Romans 6

- 1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?
- 2 By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?



Romans 6

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?



Romans 6

4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.



Romans 6

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—



Romans 6

7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.



Romans 6

9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.



Romans 6

11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you



Romans 6

13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.



Romans 6

14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!



Romans 6

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey —whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?



Romans 6

17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.



Romans 6

19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.



Romans 6

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!



Romans 6

22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



The resurrection is the victory over sin.



1 Corinthians 15:51-57

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.



1 Corinthians 15:51-57

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”



1 Corinthians 15:51-57

55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.



We have been given the vision to see beyond death. We see our victory from death. This life, this consciousness and awareness, can be eternal. That's the good news! God has put in us the instinct to seek immortality.



Ecclesiastes 3:11

“Seek eternity in our hearts.”



Purpose of Life



Why did God create life? Why did God create man? Why did God create you and me? Why did God create us in His own image and likeness?



There is a reason and purpose for creation.
That reason is recorded in Ephesians
1:3-6 and Hebrews 2:10-11.



Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love



Ephesians 1:3-6

5 he predestined us **for adoption to sonship** through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.



Hebrews 2:10-11

10 In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.



Hebrews 2:10-11

11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy **are of the same family**. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.



If we are children of God, then we are heirs
of God.



Romans 8:14-17

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption to sonship**. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”



Romans 8:14-17

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs —heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also **share in his glory**.



The reason of the gift of life is because God is making you as His children.



1 John 3:1-3

1 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called **children of God!** And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.



1 John 3:1-3

2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, **we shall be like him**, for we shall see him as he is.

3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.



Summation

Life is a gift from God. This gift of life is intended to be everlasting.



As Jesus said in John 10:10 - “He came that we may have life and have it more abundantly.”



We owe it to ourselves and to our creator to make this life everlasting. This is what we are destined to become as children of God having everlasting life.



END

