

At a recent event a youngish Israeli Defense Force [IDF] reservist talked about living and, if necessary, dying in the service of his country. He quite calmly stated that he was prepared to die for continued existence of his nation, Israel. I believed him.

His challenge to us was to live for something – even if it were not necessary to die for those convictions – at least LIVE for them. Quite a challenge!

What are we living for? What are we willing to die for?

We are never really sure what we will die for until we get right up to the point of dying or surrendering, but it is unlikely that we will die for something which we were not living for.

So, today the question is, “What are we living for...? We might also ask, “Why are we alive?” or “Is there purpose to life – to MY life?”

As Christians, we would like to think that we are **'living for Jesus'**, but we seldom pause long enough to examine what that looks like. Does your thought-life reflect the thoughts of Jesus? [Only you and God know.]

Do your attitudes harmonize with the attitudes of Jesus? [You, some friends and enemies know along with God.]

Do your words carry the grace of God in every situation?

Do your deeds reflect the now purpose of the living God?

Are you living for Jesus? If you are living for Jesus as a way of life, then perhaps you will be willing to die for Him if and when the time comes. Living for Jesus is not just a one-time decision; it is a way of life, more accurately – it is a way of death. Jesus said, ***"If anyone wishes to come after Me [live for Me], he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*** [Lk.9:23] Living for Jesus is accomplished by dying to self as a way of life. It is a moment-by-moment costly way of life which prepares one to die a martyr if necessary - or simply live forever in the presence of the King.

The Bible says, ***"In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts. These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."*** [Jud 1:18-

^{21]} We have been in the 'last days' for two thousand years, but in **these** 'lastest' of days, we see a “**worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit**” church. The way of self-denial and the cross is not popular in these days. Perhaps it never was, but, in particularly these days, God is seeking for a church which is “**a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**” [Eph 5:27]

This is what God is looking for in these days. It will be a church which embraces the cost of self-denial and the cross. It will be a Spirit empowered church full of the life, purpose, and glory of God. It will be a church with the resurrected living presence of Jesus flowing through every member.

Will He find that glorious church being manifested in you and me? Are we dying and living the resultant resurrection life for Jesus?

Love and Blessings,
George