

January 8, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 Cor. 2:9 *However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" - the things God has prepared for those who love Him. (NIV)*

I find it interesting that we can only imagine the greatness of our God. Some day we will behold Him as He truly is. But Paul is making reference to the present state as well. It is the stark difference between those who are existing and those who have experienced real and abundant life. It was obvious to even the religious leaders of the day when Peter and John were confronted about the healing of the lame man. **Acts 4:8-13** *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. (NIV)*

They were astonished. They realized that there was something that these men had that they didn't; and it came from being with Jesus. I wonder if people notice that when they look at us. Do we look and act just like them, or are we different? Paul said that anyone who is in Christ becomes a brand-new creation. We have new life. We have a real purpose and not just an existence. This is the fullness of life found by the Spirit living within us. We begin to see and hear the things of this world with wisdom, and we are able to see how the LORD is at work all of the time.

Dear LORD, You have prepared a full and meaningful life for Your children. You have set a path and will guide us along the way if we will look to You. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. In Jesus Name, Amen