

And Now What?

Recognizing Life

I think there is a time on the Christian journey that we reach a “ho-hum” stage. We look for inspiration in the places that once were a source of such, but we find that some of those places have just become a source of boring repetition. For us the spring has dried up. What comes after the “ho-hum.” It isn’t that we think we know everything; we understand the basics, but what *inspires*? What gives us that *breath* from God? I think about the breath that caused Adam to become a living being. It is always God’s breath that gives life.

In the Garden of Eden where everything *went south*, God’s intention for mankind was for man to partake of the Tree of Life not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. God set life before His creatures who were given freewill. You know the outcome—temptation, sin, death. **Sin**—the “speed bump” (*as Paige calls it*) was dealt with and conquered by Jesus—life eternal was again before us. Again, it is a choice. Always it is a gift. Always it is a choice. **“The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life.”**

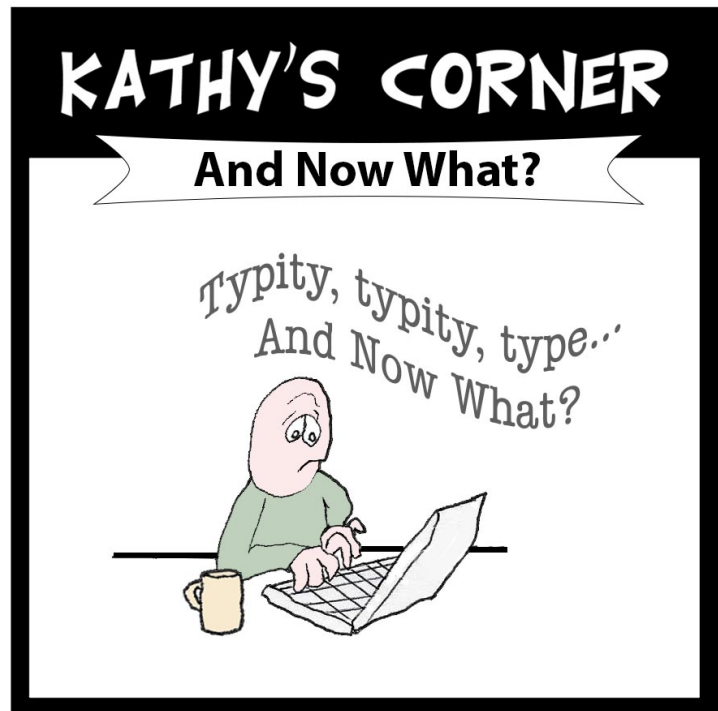
Moses said, **“I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, love the Lord your God, obey him, and remain faithful to him. For he is your life,...”** (*From Deuteronomy 30:19,20 CSB*)

Proverbs 8:35-36 CSB: **“...For the one who finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord, but the one who misses me harms himself; all who hate me love death.”** (*This is the voice of wisdom personified all through this proverb, and we know Who the Spirit of wisdom is.*)

Matthew 7:14 CSB Jesus speaking: **“How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.”**

When we think of God who is eternal we think of one without beginning or end—He is an *always* God, an eternal life which will never end, always was, and is today. This life He offers to us is not just for the future. We can unite with this life now. **“Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.”** (*John 5:24 CSB*)

It is possible to spend hours in the scriptures and miss the point. Jesus said, **“You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life.”** (*John 5:39-40*) David meditated on the word of God. He only had a portion of what is available to us. Think of how much of the Bible had not yet been written, yet he had a relationship with a full-time God he could trust. He had a heart



which was open to the Spirit. Again there is a choice, a willingness involved. The scriptures cannot be separated from Jesus—the living Word—the Life.

We know Jesus; we have life; but do we enter into the vastness of that life that He shares? Do we rest in Him and all that He has accomplished? Are we yoked to His easy yoke? Do we let Him live in and through us? Until we do, we are short of what God wants for us. We long to live above all that distracts, oppresses and harms us, above what weighs us down, but how? We want to be a blessing in the generations we are a part of. There is hope. Hope is in Him. **The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. Lord, your faithful love endures forever; do not abandon the work of your hands.** (*Psalms of David 138:8 CSB*)

My brother comically illustrated something I noticed in reading in Proverbs last week. Many of the proverbs teach wisdom through contrast. The first half of a verse is something we could decree with joy if we are righteous (*and we are thanks to Jesus*). “But,” the second half would begin, telling of what would be the fate of the unrighteous. As I commented on this to my brother he said the first half was like—and he took a deep breath as if it were a breath of fresh air; then to illustrate the second half he slumped down in the “*Alas! Woe is me!*” kind of position. It was as if the second half knocked the wind out of him, that refreshing breath he first took was gone. This is what the devil does to us every chance he gets through his minions and unregenerate people or even careless Christian people. The antidote was given to us by Paul: **Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things. Do what you have learned and received and heard from me, and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.** (*Philippians 4:8-9 CSB*)

Jesus said, “**The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**” (*John 6:63 CSB*) If there is one thing that we who attend NUMA should know, it is that NUMA (*pneuma*) means spirit, breath and wind. Getting past the external requires opening our hearts by choice to receive the Spirit and the Life. It is good to get past the program, the song, the sermon, the vessel, to the Spirit who is in these, whatever it takes. It is a choice. We don’t have to live in the “ho-hum.”

And Now What?

There is good, better and best, and beyond these is Life! From Proverbs 13:17 CSB: **a trustworthy courier brings healing.** What is healing but a restoration of a whole and healthy life, physically, mentally and spiritually? We are the messengers, ambassadors, couriers of that healing Life available through the blood of Jesus to all who will.

The very last verse of the Psalms from the Amplified Bible:

Let everything that has breath and every breath of life praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!)