

“Live!”

There is a scripture in Ezekiel that reveals God’s nature and His passion for us. He spoke through the prophet to the people of Jerusalem and He said to them, “Then I passed by and saw you kicking about in your blood, and as you lay there in your blood I said to you, ‘Live!’” What a vivid and powerful statement. This happens again and again as the Lord finds His people in places of rebellion and ‘death’. He is not content with leaving us there. He has a plan for life and spiritual abundance.

Looking intently into the Word, we uncover this wonderful message of hope and life that emanates from God the Father and His Son, Christ. Jesus identifies Himself in John 11:25 upon raising Lazarus from the dead, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.” In Revelation 1:17-18, Jesus said to John, “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!”

It’s fair to say that all of us at one time found ourselves ‘dead’ and unresponsive to the things of the Spirit. I, personally, was absent of my senses. I could not hear the voice of Jesus. No matter how it was spoken, my ear was dead and took no notice. Sounds passed the drum of my ear and my body heard, but the ear of my heart was not reached, for I was dead.

I was blind and I could not see. I could not see my Lord, I could not see His love, I could not see his broken heart, I could not see His thorn-crowned head, and I saw no beauty in the gracious One. My eyes were covered in blindness as I flailed about trying to find my way. There is nothing more blind than the one whom is dead. Insensitivity overwhelmed me as I could not feel the presence, smell the fragrance, or taste the sweetness of God. I was not alive to God.

And then ... I was quickened. I was made alive. In the King James version, Ephesians 2:1 reads, “You hath He quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.” I began to live and the life-blood of Jesus began to flow through my veins. Everything seemed different to me; I looked at all things through new eyes, and heard with new ears; Christ was near me, His Spirit was within me. I began to hunger for the Bread of Life and thirst for the Living Water. I became a new creation. Hallelujah! He is risen!

The men on the back page are recent graduates who have experienced this new, abundant life for themselves. Paul describes this resurrection a few verses later in Ephesians 2:4-5:

“But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ...”

“Live!”



Nick



“ I come from 10 years of addiction starting with work and music, which was the beginning of my fall into drugs and alcohol. I destroyed all my relationships and manipulated those closest to me. I pushed away my family, wife, and kids. But the Lord brought me out of the pit I was in and brought me to Dunklin. He has forgiven me and made me new. The Lord has reconciled me to my family and has given me peace, love, and joy! ”

- Dan Monteith



“ I have been in addiction for the past 15 years. I lost my wife of 31 years due to our addiction. I isolated myself from my son, daughter, and granddaughter. But here at Dunklin the Lord has walked me through the pain I’ve felt and the pain I’ve caused. He has restored me to my family. I am looking forward to being a father and grandfather. I now have a purpose because of Him who saved me! ”

- Darren Gould

“ I come from 29 years of addiction to drugs. I lived many of those years completely reckless and unteachable. I was full of pride and lived for pleasure. I isolated myself regardless of company. But Christ Jesus found me and gave me a new heart. He reconciled me to my family and the body of Christ. Today I have peace, hope, and joy. I walk by faith and no longer by feelings. I am grateful to Dunklin for the love and care that’s been poured out to me on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ! ”

- Josh Gilbert



“ I come from over 12 years of addiction. I lived a very self-destructive lifestyle. I isolated from my family and tried to hide from God. I was selfish and reckless. I was so hopeless I attempted suicide. I absolutely hated myself. But the Lord pulled me from that life. At just the right time He got me to Dunklin. The Lord has changed me in so many ways and has given me a new chance at life. ”

- Morgan Alderman

“ I come from over a decade of alcohol and marijuana addiction. I was selfish and self-centered. I had no genuine relationships with friends or family. Things had gotten so bad I didn't know if I wanted to live or die. I was at rock bottom and came to Dunklin. The Lord saved me from that dark place and restored my life, heart, and soul. The Lord has given me a sense of purpose again. From here I plan to return to my career and spread the love and hope that’s been given to me through Christ! ”

- Steve Schiffman



“ I come from a 7 year addiction to alcohol. I put my family through so much fear and false hope. I thought I was broken and could not be fixed. However at just the right time the Lord chose to pull me out. He poured out His grace and mercy and because of that I am alive today. Today I know that I’m loved and accepted by Christ. I believe He has put a calling and purpose in my heart to share the good news with the next generation. I’m grateful to be alive in Christ! ”

- Tyler Carman