

*Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent.* (Jeremiah 20:9)

*The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy.* (Revelation 19:10c)

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## ***Zoe-Life in Union***

Most recently, I have been stressing the importance of *the Zoe-Life* ([here](#); [here](#)). Now, in this issue, I want to continue along this line by incorporating what I believe to be one of the greater purposes of this uncreated *Zoe-Life*. Earlier, I included the complete definition of *zoe* as presented in the *Faithful NT*; however, it is the first part of the definition that gets to the very heart of this life.

**ZOE “ZOH-ay” (ζωη)—Life ‘collectively’, interdependent, interconnected.**

According to this definition, *Zoe-Life* is not an independent life as if it exists in its own world, so to speak, isolated and having no dependency on anything outside itself. No; *Zoe-Life* is a life in union with others—with God the Father, Christ the Anointed Son, and all that are in Christ’s anointing, destined to openly manifest as sons of God. Paul clearly reveals this truth throughout his letters, especially in Ephesians where he wrote:

Consequently, then, no longer are you guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints and belong to God’s family, **being built on** the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of the corner being Christ Jesus Himself, in Whom the entire building, **being connected together**, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord: in Whom you, also, are **being built together** for God’s dwelling place, **in spirit**. (Ephesians 2:19-22 CLV [bold added])

Based on this, it is plain to see that, from the body of Christ’s perspective, *Zoe-Life* is the collective, interdependent, and interconnected Life of God that will ultimately produce a **large family** of many brethren (Romans 8:29) in perfect harmony and union, having been conformed to the image of God’s Son as God’s dwelling place, *in spirit*—a perfected family that will, ultimately, openly manifest to the entire creation of God. Creation is added to the formula because, in its perfect and full expression, *Zoe-Life* is in harmony and in union with all of God’s creation as well. By the way; all of this is the very heart of the [Kingdom of God](#).

Clearly, Paul expressed the heart of Jesus that desired His people to be one as He is one with His Father. We see this in Jesus’ prayer as He was soon to face the agony of the cross. Since He had already won the personal battle in the garden of Gethsemane, His primary concern turned to ones He had discipled and to those that would hear their word and have His faith after He departed back to His Father.

(11) I am now no longer in the world, yet they are in the world and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them true to Your name—the name (*Yahweh/Yeshua*) you have given me—**that they may be one (in union)**, even as we are. ... (20) My prayer is not for them only, but **for all who will have faith** (believing) in me through their word, so **that they all may be one (in union)**, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one (in union), in Us**, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one (in union)**, just as We are one; **I in union with them and You in union with Me**, so **that they may be perfectly united (perfected as one in union)**, and the world may know that You sent me and that You have loved them just as You have loved Me. (John 17:11; 20-23 compilation)

Jesus' priority was and still is that His people (all down through the centuries) be one, to be in union—not only with Him and His Father, but just as importantly with one another. If this is Jesus' priority, doesn't this make it ours as well?

In turn, this leads back to Jesus' opening to His prayer, for this is the genesis for this tripartite union.

“Father,” he said, “the moment has come. Glorify your son, so that your son may glorify you. Do this in the same way as you did when you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he could give **the Zoe-Life of God's coming age** (or: eonian life) to everyone you gave him. And by '**Zoe-Life of God's coming age**' (or: eonian life) I mean this **that they should know you, the only true God, and Jesus the Messiah** (or: Anointed One), **the one you sent.**” (John 17:1b-3 compilation)

I've already written on these verses, so please see [Eonian Life - Knowing God and Jesus Christ](#). The point, however, is that *Zoe-Life* is knowing God and His Anointed Son and this knowing comes about in union with God and His Son. This is much more than just knowing of them intellectually or historically. It's a personal, **experiential knowing in our innermost being** that comes through experience of the Lord's spirit working in us.

Interestingly, as I began writing this, the daily devotional word from the T. Austin-Sparks' web site offered a few thoughts on the experiential side of *the Life*. Here's what brother Sparks had to say in 1935 (bold added).

We are very often inclined to think that **the Life of the Lord** in us needs in some way to be improved, to be added to, when really what is required is that we should discover what we have, and, **discovering it by experience, live according to it**. This Life is not something apart from the Lord Jesus, and we can never think of His standing in need of some improvement, nor of the possibility of something being added to Him

to make Him complete, or more complete. We would never think like that. And this Life is one with Himself. As the Apostle says, it is Christ who is our Life, and our need is to **discover what Christ is in us, and to live accordingly**. So in a very real sense it is **a matter of the Life getting more of us, rather than of our getting more of the Life**. That, at any rate, is the way of its working. ([The Battle For Life - Chapter 5](#))

To use the more common expression *eternal life*, it is not about some forever existence outside of time, as if it is all about dying and going to heaven. This misses the whole point of believing and receiving this new life, which is an experiential knowing, meaning we are to live and experience it in the present. But take note how our brother framed this. We don't bring anything to *Zoe-Life*. Jesus' *Zoe-Life* comes to us and takes hold of us. As Paul testified, it apprehends us and our desire must be to apprehend it. We don't get to pick and choose what of this Life we want to live by. No; *Zoe-Life* is a complete life, not partial and not exhaustible. It is through our life experiences that the Life gets hold of more of us—the [indestructible](#), inexhaustible life of Jesus!

But how does this work in a world that seems so often to surround us in death? Again, Sparks addresses this (bold added).

This, in the ordering of God, has to be done in a world where death still rules and works; for in this world the destruction of death has not yet been made manifest. Death, like the devil, goes on, although Calvary still remains full victory. We are left in this world, and it is in this world where death reigns and works as a great energy that we, by this sovereign ordering of God, have to come to prove the values of the Life which has been deposited in us, and to discover its potentialities. This is an **experimental discovery**. It therefore resolves itself into battle between that which is in this world and the Life which is in the believer. It is **the battle for Life**, not as to the forfeiture of that Life – not as to whether death can take eternal Life away from us, for that is not the question at issue – but as to **the triumphant expression and the full manifestation of the power of that Life**. That is the issue. ([The Battle For Life - Chapter 5](#))

Although this deals more with our individual life in the Lord, we need to carry this to the next step, that is, our “experimental discovery”, to use Sparks' term, in union with one another. It is vital to realize that all of us in the body of Christ are objectively united in “the triumphant expression and the full manifestation of the power of this Life”, that is, *Zoe-Life*, and this unity (union) is to be expressed subjectively to both the seen and the unseen realms. The world that is coming apart at the seams, so to speak, doesn't know this, but it is in desperate need of seeing and experiencing this unity in action, for this is what wins, at least in part, the [Final Battle for Humanity](#). **Unity, Union, Oneness!**

However, this unity can only come about by the spirit of the Lord. It is not something the Lord's people can take up or work up simply based on a desire to be one. The flesh, even well-meaning flesh, has no part in this unity. It must be all of the spirit—*in spirit*; anything less will result in a repeat performance of the many failures and even short-lived successes (like so-called *revivals*) that have manifested down through the centuries. To be abundantly clear—it isn't about filling the stadiums and everyone locking arms praying and singing, or parading in the streets, or holding crusades or tent revivals to invite people to join a "church" (or: scare them out of hell). As the expression goes: *Been there, done that!*

This is all about what the King has declared from His throne: ***Behold, I am making all things new!*** Old ways will not do, especially those that are no more than carry-overs from old-covenant Israel—the old wineskin. As stated in previous articles, the flesh-organized "church" of today is a hybrid of old and new, with the old seemingly more dominant than the new. This hybrid is further divided like silos where each silo holds its own brand of beliefs, doctrines, traditions, emphases, structures, etc. Once one enters the silo, in order to remain and be accepted, one must adhere to what the silo contains (i.e., represents).

Looking across the landscape of Christendom (for lack of a better term), we might be tempted to have little to no expectation that the body of Christ will ever come together as one, truly joined to our Head with no one person taking the lead but all led of the spirit. First, by the faith of Jesus, we must believe that this oneness is a spiritual reality. We might not see it or experience it as often as we might like to, but this does not change the reality of it, especially from the perspective of *the* Christ who is building His ecclesia. Second, we can pray over this matter, asking that the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to this reality and that we will experience this reality in our daily walk with the Lord. Third, not to negate any of what I am suggesting, but on a practical level, it is a challenge to have true fellowship with many of the Lord's people because of the silos they carry with them. I believe that as our present age comes to its end, one work of the spirit is to cause these silos to crumble to dust much like all the structures of man are crumbling today.

On our part, as God's people, it is time to acknowledge that the old ways must be put where they belong—in the grave—and by the spirit of the Lord we must move on to the all-new as **new creations in Christ destined to manifest as sons of God in glory**. It is time to cry out to the Lord for change. We are in the final battle for humanity, a word given to me by the Lord. As Sparks said, we are in *a world where death reigns*. Mind you; he wrote this in 1935 as WW2 was ramping up. Today, we are witnessing a similar scenario, only we are seeing both physical and spiritual death not seen in the 77 years since WW2's end. Good news: Calvary still remains in full victory and will soon prove to be so as the anointing of the Anointed One continually rises up from among His people until it brings the body of Christ into absolute **[glory - ultimate freedom and union](#)**—as *the* Christ, Head and body!

I mentioned earlier that our union in Christ is to be expressed subjectively (i.e., practically) to a severely divided world that knows nothing of this Life, that is, Christ who is our *Zoe-Life*. However, this union begins as the spirit of the Lord reveals to us in our innermost being that we are spiritually in union with every brother and sister alive on this planet today, as well as those that have gone before us. We, in the body of Christ, are not only connected spiritually with those we know and might gather with locally or those we only know through correspondence or electronic means, but also with the myriad of saints with whom we have no direct contact or knowledge. In other words, we are connected in spirit with the entirety of Christ's body, regardless of time, space or place. This is the union of the body of Christ or, stated another way, *the dwelling of God in spirit*.<sup>1</sup>

We need revelation from the spirit of God of *Zoe-Life in union* with one another. Unfortunately, the many divisions along many lines within organized Christianity have hindered the revelation of this union as it has emphasized oneness of doctrine, style, structure, and any number of things that define and set apart a specific group of believers.

If I have heard the Lord correctly, this is changing as He brings down the façade of religion that has been built up over the many centuries since Calvary, just as He is [\*hammering\*](#) the built-up structures of man (political, institutional and otherwise), causing them to crumble to dust.

Dear people of God, we need more and more revelation of this *Zoe-Life* in union through both our individual and corporate experiences. This is the spirit's way of destroying the many divisions based on a myriad of "things" that have divided us within the body of Christ.

Just as a reminder, as believers, we have a seven-fold oneness in Christ.

As a prisoner for the Lord's sake, I entreat (beseech, exhort) you to live lives worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, lovingly bearing with one another, continuing with eager earnestness to maintain **the unity (union) of the Spirit through the bond of peace**. There is but **one Body** and **one Spirit**, just as there is but **one Expectation** (hope) resulting from the call you have received; there is but **one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all** over us all, who pervades us all (who is through us all), and who is within us all. (Ephesians 4:1-6 compilation)

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<sup>1</sup> Have you personally experienced this union *in spirit*? Maybe you have but didn't recognize it as such. It is a sensing you are one with someone in Christ you have never personally met. In some cases, it may manifest as a burden for the person, perhaps even through a dream. One more facet of this union that I have been sensing is our oneness with creation, not in a "new-age" pantheistic sort of way; rather, one based on all creation being energized by spirit. As humans, we are composed of the materials of this earth and, as such, are intimately connected to it, materially and spiritily. Obviously, this is a topic unto itself.

The key to this is found in the unity or union of the spirit of God through the bond of peace.

Throughout Paul's epistles, he expressed to the saints what this should and should not look like, especially when it comes to local expressions of the body. In doing so, in Colossians, he concluded his thoughts with this.

On top of all this you must put on love, which ties everything together and makes it complete. Let the king's peace be the deciding factor in your hearts; that's what you were called to, within the one body. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:14-15 Kingdom NT)

Paul was dealing with more practical, daily issues in the local body; however, in principle, one sign of our union in spirit, whether individually, locally, or corporately on the grand scale, is knowing the king's peace in our hearts. The bond of peace is a sure sign of *Zoe-Life* in union. Stated another way: it must be our trademark to the world. After all, ***blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God***. Of course, along with this is love.

I in **union** with them and You in **union** with Me, that they may be **perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and **loved** them, just as You have **loved** Me. (John 17:23)

By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love** for one another. (John 13:35)

This is ZOE "ZOH-ay" (ζωη)—**Life 'collectively', interdependent, interconnected in love!**

One of the signs that the battle for humanity is won will be the unity of the *transformed* body of Christ openly manifesting as the *perfected* ambassadors of peace (reconciliation). Then the world will begin to change for the good, as it is led to acknowledge there is only one God—the Creator of all, who fills *all in all*, *loves all* and *reconciles all*.

The good news is that our present age has run its course and the *end of civilization* that we have known for the last 77 years is coming to an end and a new age of peace, love, justice, prosperity and abundant Zoe-Life is about to rise up to the glory of God as the Kingdom of the Son of God's love openly manifests.

At the very heart of the Kingdom of God is the Presence of the King of all.