

Beyond Tears Worldwide Newsletter

June 2024

From the President's Desk

**Have you heard of the Message Bible? "The Message is a reading Bible translated from the original Greek and Hebrew Scriptures by scholar, pastor, author, and poet Eugene Peterson. Thoroughly reviewed and approved by twenty biblical scholars, The Message combines the authority of God's Word with the cadence and energy of conversational English." Messagebible.com I searched for some Bible verses that have been on my mind for the past week. The Message Bible translation succinctly expresses my thoughts in plain English.**

The verse(s) John 12: 24, 25

Jesus speaking,..

"Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real, and eternal.

If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me."

The traditional interpretation is that we cannot follow Christ unless we die to ourselves. I am not in disagreement with that traditional interpretation at all.

However, I have some other thoughts this week that I feel the Holy Spirit has spoken to me about in the middle of the 2024 Business As Mission (BAM) Project. To think of these verses from a purely selfish point of view, if I choose to serve Christ, I will live, and thrive, and extend my seed-value far beyond my limited self. Isn't life better when we thrive rather than by just existing? Jesus is giving us a key to a life lived for him, serving him, is the most beneficial life we can have.

My wife and I travel all over the world. We carry with us recipe's that I have inherited from my mother. People ask me for these recipes after they taste the product that comes from the cooking or baking process. I have learned to give the recipes away when asked. I do this with other information I possess. Why? If I give the information I have away, I am multiplying the chance to possess the treasure of knowledge and information wherever I go in this world. It can be obtained if I need it and if I don't have it. It exists in the information base of my former students, friends, and family. By giving up something precious to me, I gain it back again and again.

Jesus is speaking about having life and how we handle life. He has given us new life through His blood that saves us from our own sinful nature and condition. To use the new life He gives us in the way he suggests, in service to him, the Word of God made flesh, we gain an even greater amount of life.

The key is to apply our qualities, skills, talents, knowledge, wisdom, calling and the love we have for God in the proper way as a living sacrifice presented to Christ in service to His values, and concerns. Our life-value becomes expanded and ongoing and reproducible now and for all eternity. The Father will honor and reward us to the extent we have faithfully taken Jesus' words to heart and applied them to our lives.

We need to be a laid down sacrificial lamb available and willing to do what God wants us to do, to go where He wants us to go, to follow Jesus unreservedly. Dying to ourselves as a seed with an unlimited potential only realized by a death process whereby, we live for God and die to ourselves.

I hope these thoughts add something to the understanding of the traditional interpretation of these verses. Please do not be afraid to contact me at [Beyondtearsworldwide.com](http://Beyondtearsworldwide.com). We could use your life in service on a project to Leh, Ladakh, India. If you have a heart to serve, God has a place for you. Maybe He would like to use your talents in the harsh conditions of Jammu & Kashmir, India. A life laid down bears uncountable fruit in God's Kingdom and to God's glory both here and for all eternity. Do not wait! We are planning now for the next short-term mission trip.