

The Exchanged Life

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Introduction

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. (John 10:10b)

Is it possible to consistently enjoy an abundant, victorious Christian life? We offer testimony and explanation from two sources which affirmatively answer this question.

Friends, the time is short. *Let us pray for each other* to understand these crucial testimonies, to believe them, and to make them our own.

J. Hudson Taylor

J. Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), founder of the China Inland Mission. The following quotes were taken from a biography written by his son and daughter-in-law, entitled *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret* (bold emphases added):

May 21, 1832 James Hudson Taylor born in Barnsley, Yorkshire, England.

June, 1849 Conversion, followed by call to life service.

September 4, 1869 *Entered into The Exchanged Life: - "God has made me a new man!"* [From Taylor's life chronology at end of book.]

[Regarding a life-changing letter] *Amid a pile of letters awaiting Mr. Taylor in Chinkingang, had been one from John McCarthy* [another missionary in China].

[McCarthy wrote to Taylor:]

I do wish I could have a talk with you now about the way of holiness. At the time you were speaking to me about it, it was the subject of all others occupying my thoughts, not from anything I had read...so much as from a consciousness of failure—a constant falling short of that which I felt should be aimed at; *an unrest; a perpetual striving...*

[but now he realizes]...**Abiding, not striving** or struggling; looking off unto Him; trusting Him for present power;...resting in the love of an almighty Saviour, in the joy of a complete salvation, “from *all* sin”—this is not new, and yet ‘tis *new to me*. I feel as though the dawning of a glorious day had risen upon me. I hail it with trembling, yet with trust. I seem to have got to the edge only, but of a boundless sea; to have sipped only, but of that which fully satisfies. Christ **literally all** seems to me, now, the power, the only power for service, the only ground for unchanging joy....Not a striving to have faith...but a looking off to the Faithful One seems all we need; a resting in the Loved One entirely, for time and for eternity.

[after reading McCarthy’s letter of September 4, 1869:] “Oh, Mr. Judd, **God has made me a new man! God has made me a new man!**” Wonderful was the experience that had come in answer to prayer, yet so simple as almost to baffle description. **It was just as it was long ago** [at his conversion], “**Whereas I was blind, now I see!**”

Andrew Murray

Andrew Murray (1828-1917), South African minister, author, revivalist.

Several quotes from his book, *Abide in Christ* (bold emphases added):

Observe especially, it was not that He said, “Come to me and abide *with* me,” but, “Abide *in* me.” The intercourse was not only to be unbroken, but most intimate and complete (p. 12).

No less essential than it is for the *commencement* is faith for the *progress* of the spiritual life. Abiding in Jesus can only be by *faith*...**There are earnest Christians who** do not understand this; or, if they admit it in theory, they **fail to realize** its application in practice. They are very zealous for a free gospel with our first acceptance of Christ, and justification by faith alone. But after this, they think everything depends on our diligence and faithfulness. While they firmly grasp the truth “The sinner shall be justified by faith,” they have hardly found a place in their scheme for the larger truth “The just shall *live* by faith (p. 35).

Often the believer struggles hopelessly for years, **until** he listens to the teaching of the Spirit as He glorifies Christ again and reveals Christ, our sanctification, to be appropriated by *faith* alone (p. 62).

How many there are who can witness that this faith is just what they need! They continually mourn the variableness of their spiritual life...*Could they but understand that their very efforts are the cause of their failure*—because it is

God *alone* who can establish us in Christ Jesus—they would see that, **just as** in justification they had to cease from their own working and to accept by faith the promise that God would give them life in Christ, **so now**, the matter of their sanctification, their first need is to cease from striving themselves to establish the connection with Christ more firmly and *to allow God to do it* (pp. 79-80).

The way in which souls enter into the possession may differ. **To some** it may come as the gift of a moment...**To others** it comes by a slower and more difficult path. Day by day, amid discouragement and difficulty, the soul has to press forward. Be of good cheer; this way too leads to the rest. Seek but to keep your heart set upon the promise, "I THE LORD DO KEEP IT, night and day" [Isa. 27:2-3] (p. 88).

It was an act of wondrous though simple faith in which the soul yielded itself at first to the Saviour...In that same wondrous faith, wondrously simple but wondrously mighty, **the soul learns to abandon itself entirely to the keeping of Christ's almighty power** ... (p. 201).

Grace versus Legalism

Please take time to read this important discussion of [Grace versus Legalism](#). These principles will also help the seeker enter into the Exchanged Life.

Suggested Memory Verses:

Deuteronomy 33:27 (NIV)

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Psalms 46:10 (NASB)

Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

John 6:27-29 (NIV)

"Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."

John 15:5-8 (NIV)

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in

me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 3:14-21 (NIV)

..I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have **power**, together with all the saints, **to grasp** how wide and long and high and deep is **the love of Christ**, and **to know this love that surpasses knowledge**—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Hebrews 4:9-11 (NIV)

There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Bibliography (please consider purchasing the following:)

Taylor, Dr. & Mrs. Howard. *Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1989.

Murray, Andrew. *Abide in Christ*. Fort Washington, Pa.: CLC Publications, 2003.