

Others

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from
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INTRODUCTION

Others

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers will be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true
And know that all I do for You
Must needs be done for others.

Let "self" be crucified and slain
And buried deep; and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again
Unless to live for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others,
Let this my motto be,
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.

– C.D. Meigs

This poem has always blessed me. It's also been a tremendous motivation for my ministry. People have often asked me, "Pastor, what's the secret to your ministry, to keep doing what you do?" My answer is always, "Others."

Jesus Christ came and died for us so that we might have His life, and so that we might become life-givers by sharing His life with others. May this booklet bless you and motivate you to live in "a self-forgetful way," by the grace and power of God.

Chapter One

JESUS CHRIST CAME
TO GIVE LIFE

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am

the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:1-14).

Consider the key points in this passage: Jesus is the door; the multitudes around him are thieves and robbers; the porter that opens is the Holy Spirit; the sheep hear His voice; He calls them by name; He leads the sheep, they don't lead themselves.

"I am the door," Jesus says. Anyone who enters into the sheepfold must enter in by Him. A person enters in and finds pasture; he finds a local church that teaches the whole counsel of God, finished work Bible doctrine—the pasture of the Word of God. This is a provision of the abundant life Jesus came to give us. He is the

life-giver. You can always tell where someone is in his walk with God by how he accepts what God gives: abundant life.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26).

Eternal life is the first gift that Jesus gives to a saved person. Just as the human body needs air in order to have human life, the believer needs the Word of God every single day to have God's life. "I am the way, the truth, and the life," Jesus said in John 14:6: "I am *life!* Be around me and receive it. Be around me, and you will know who to follow and what to do. You will not have an existence of striving and struggling in your emotions, lust patterns, and your old sin nature. I came to crucify and bury your old sin nature. Be around me and *you shall have life!*"

Meeting People's Needs

Jesus was very practical in dealing with people's needs. When He saw that the multitude was hungry, He made a way to feed them with the loaves and the fishes. Those who were sick, He healed. Those who were demon-possessed, He delivered. Jesus had great compassion for

every person in every walk of life.

Even upon the cross, Jesus thought of others. In John 19:26-27, He wanted to make sure Mary was taken care of, so He told John to look after her. For those who were cursing Him, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). He prayed for others; He lived for others.

"Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:27-28). Jesus was saying to the apostles, "I am chief, I am God, I am Creator, I am Redeemer, but my purpose is to be a servant for others."

Acts 1:1 says, "Jesus began both to do and teach." He *did*, and then He taught. We have too many teachers around today who teach but do not *do* what they teach. That wasn't how Jesus lived. He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Jesus Christ wasn't a negative person. He came to give the fulness of life for each day.

He came to give His Word to others, to serve others. He came to eat with others. He came to individuals, to give them His life *personally*.

Jesus came to put power inside of us, to give

us an eternal purpose in serving, loving, laughing, and caring. He gives us an eternal purpose to build people up, to go where they are, and to reach them with His love.

Everything that Jesus did was for others. He died, not for Himself, but for others. He was raised up for *our* justification (Romans 4:25). He ascended to take His position as our High Priest and to intercede for us until we are perfected.

Doing the Will of the Father

In John 4, Jesus stopped to talk to the woman at the well. She was a moral wreck, living in adultery after having been married five times before. Beautifully, Jesus sought her out. He came to seek people who were moral wrecks. The Pharisees didn't—but Jesus did. And He came to give to this "moral wreck" life and forgiveness. That was His whole purpose.

I think this is the sweetest story. She left her waterpot—the waterpot was the most important thing in her life (after men!). I mean, you've got to have water. But she left her waterpot to go tell people what had happened to her. She didn't have to take a course on soul winning or baptism. She just went out, soul winning, saying, "Come see a man who told me all things that ever I did,"

and she came back with Samaritans who discovered Christ.

Now, the disciples said, "We've got some food for you, Jesus!" They didn't care about that woman, and they couldn't figure out why He was even paying attention to her. But Jesus said, "No, my food is to do the will of God. It's not to fulfill my lust patterns, or to satisfy myself."

Then Jesus told them, "Don't say 'four months and then a harvest.' Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; they are white, and ready to harvest." In reality, He pointed to the woman bringing those souls! What was He concerned about? Harvesting, winning the lost, soul winning, missionary work, outreaches to everyone so that whosoever will may come unto Him. He loved others. He was concerned about loving the Samaritans, whom the disciples did not love.

He came to heal others. He came to deliver others. He came to save others. Others. *Others!* Everything that Jesus Christ did was for others.

Chapter Two
REVEALING THE LIFE
OF THE WORD

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he” (Proverbs 29:18).

“... And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision” (1 Samuel 3:1).

Satan, demons, and the flesh are life-takers. The devil comes to rob, steal, kill, and destroy. He wants to steal and rob the life Jesus has given by hindering our vision for others. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” The original Hebrew says that without a vision, there is no restraint. We get all caught up in fighting life, fighting the one that’s robbing us! Finally, we get weary; weary of fighting the devil, fighting the past, fighting what we “think” people are saying, and fighting our sicknesses. Then, we grow weary in well-doing.

It is possible to have the truth of Jesus Christ and to not have His life. For example, there are some who have the truth about forgiveness, but they cannot forgive. Some have the truth about reconciliation, but they do not have a ministry of reconciliation. Any area where a person has truth but does not have the life to reveal that truth is dangerous area.

You have to be careful when you say to some people, "How are you doing?" One may hesitate, then say, rather soberly, "Uh, OK." Now, he knows the truth that every day is new, the truth about the filling of the Holy Spirit, the truth about how God's power works in us. He knows all these things, but he doesn't have the life—and he's not a life-giver.

Lamentations 3:22-24 reveals that it is because of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. His compassions fail not, His mercies are new every morning, His faithfulness is great!

We are only on earth to reveal God's truth, but we cannot do it unless we have God's life. It is extremely important never to neglect the life of the Truth, so we can reveal the way of God every day. The most fantastic thing is that God has made it possible for us to have an abundant life within.

God the Father said: This is the record that I give unto you, eternal life, and that life is in my Son. He who has the Son has His life (1 John 5:11-12). God's Son is a life-giver. Satan is a death-giver. God is a builder; Satan is a destroyer. God is positive; Satan is negative. It is God who gives fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11). It is Satan who gives sorrow, anxiety, and fear.

Not of this World

We have not received the spirit of this world system, as it is defined in Job 4:20: "They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it." The world's system is controlled by the death-giver, Satan. Those who are under its control destroy themselves from morning to evening.

Eyes haven't seen, nor have ears heard what God has prepared for them who love Him. By His Spirit, God has revealed these things to our hearts. The natural man, who lives in the flesh, cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-14a). The natural man will probably forget everything in this message within thirty minutes; he's taken in the Truth, but he hasn't received the life behind it.

We have not received the spirit of this world.

No, we have received the Spirit of God, that we may know freely all things that have been given unto us.

I know a woman whose husband died and went home to be with the Lord. She had made a profession of faith and lived for God for years before falling into this problem. In her loneliness, she became an alcoholic, drinking every day. What was wrong? All along, she knew the truth, but she didn't have the life. She made a decision and a declaration: "I've got to have the right relationship with Jesus Christ to get the life I need." She was gloriously delivered.

The Joy of Giving Life

People who know the life behind the Truth can't help but become life-givers.

There was an affluent man who moved to the slum area of a city. He had a vision to help those in his new neighborhood. He held meetings with his neighbors and said, "If there's any work you need done, I'll do it for nothing." He and his wife just wanted to get in there and help the people. They fixed up houses, mowed grass, and planted flowers. When they were finished, the area was fantastically renovated. He and his wife revealed the life behind the truth. As a re-

sult, many of his neighbors came to know Jesus Christ.

Don't you love to hang around a life-giver? You'll always get life! A life-giver is always positive, always building people up. Anytime he opens his mouth, he ministers grace to the hearer (Ephesians 4:29).

Jesus did not come to condemn people. He didn't come to judge the world. He didn't come to cause divorces. He didn't come to accuse sinners, but to die for them. He came to receive sinners, to give us redemption and eternal life. He came to wipe away the record of our sins and to bless us with His life. Jesus wants us to reveal the life of this great truth to others.

Chapter Three
GIVING LIFE,
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Once, a woman came to me, crying and saying she was going to have a nervous breakdown. When I asked her why she thought that, she said "I cry all the time. I go home, I cry. I get up, I cry. I go to the bathroom, I cry. I feel terrible. Everything is awful!"

What was her problem? "I want to get married, but no one even asks me out," she said.

I had a solution. I asked her to contact a woman in our church who has a ministry with terminally ill patients. "My counsel is that you go to hospital visitation on Tuesday. Then, on Friday, go visit the pediatric clinic where HIV-positive children are cared for," and, I also said, "While you're at it, visit the nursing home." Within a week, she was back to tell me, "I've postponed my nervous breakdown!"

What captivated this woman? Others! She

learned how to minister to others and she forgot herself. In the hospital, she encountered a wealthy woman who had been in a tragic accident. With all her wealth, this woman's life was over at 35, unconscious and brain damaged. At the same hospital she saw a cab driver who had been shot in the head and was on life support. A young student, he drove a cab to help with his finances, until the night he was shot.

After seeing these people, this woman realized, "I don't have any problems! I am healthy. I am not dying. Now, I want to *live!*" All of a sudden, she had a desire to give God's life to others, to share the life of Jesus Christ.

Putting Others First

In Genesis 13, Abraham's servants and Lot's servants were striving with each other. They had such large herds, the pasture could not sustain them—someone had to move. Abraham resolved the problem by giving Lot first choice. "You take what you want, Lot," he said. "I'll take what's left. No competition!" So Lot chose the part that seemed best, by sight. But after the decision to put Lot first, the Lord spoke to Abraham: "Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and south-

ward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.”

Later, in Genesis 14, Lot and his family were taken captive. Abraham didn't hesitate in coming to the rescue; he was a life-giver who considered others. Others!

In Exodus 32, the children of Israel, camped in the wilderness, demanded that Aaron make them “gods,” idols, to take the place of Moses, who had been on Mount Sinai with God for forty days. They thought he wasn't coming back to lead them out. Aaron told the people to give him all their golden earrings from which he fashioned a golden calf. The people declared “These be thy gods, O Israel,” as they worshipped and danced naked before the golden calf. In His anger at their backsliding, God told Moses that He would consume them all and raise up a new nation from him (Exodus 32:10). But Moses pleaded: “Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written” (Exodus 32:31-32).

Moses had a fiery indignation against what Israel had done, but he told God to blot his

name out of the Book of Life, too, if God would not forgive Israel. Why did Moses say this? Because his whole life was for others.

The same was true for the apostle Paul, in Romans 9:3. He cried that he would go to hell himself if it would help some of his Jewish brethren to go to heaven. He was thinking of others.

When we care for others, something beautiful happens. It makes a difference when a person knows that someone else really cares. Oh, some don't like it when you try to help *everybody*. But we are to love everybody—our enemies, our friends—because everybody needs to be loved.

Raised Up By Love

The poet Elizabeth Barrett Browning was an invalid; she couldn't even sit up in bed. But then, she met Robert Browning, another famous poet, and they fell madly in love. On the first visit from Robert Browning, Elizabeth sat up. She hadn't done that before. His love for her made her able to do something she couldn't do before. On another visit from Mr. Browning, Elizabeth got up and walked. Before long, the couple married and settled on the coast of Italy, where she was

completely restored to health. The amazing love of Robert Browning for Elizabeth Barrett got her out of bed. She sat up, walked, and was never an invalid again! She met someone who cared for her; someone who loved her out of her problem.

That's what Jesus does! He came that we might have *life*—abundant life!

Changed Church

I once visited a church and told the pastor, "Will you be upset if I tell you that your church is really good now?"

He laughed and said, "You sensed the difference! You know why it's so good? Look at that man over there. He came in here and got saved and baptized. God has given him a gift of love, a gift of personality, and a gift of work. He just came in here, loved everyone, and everyone in this church is changed. He did what my preaching didn't do. Now, it's easy to preach here."

I said, "That man is a life-giver, a builder," and his life affected—that's right—*others*.

Chapter Four
A MINISTRY DEDICATED
TO OTHERS

“Others Lord, yes others; let this my motto be...” Can you imagine how many problems would be gone if everyone had God’s life? We don’t need to sell flowers at stop signs! We need to give Jesus’ life away, for free! What has motivated me now for over forty years? Others. I love people! I never thought the ministry would get this big, to the point where I would receive telephone calls from Hungary, Moscow, Baku, and Ukraine, all in one night! But because the life of Jesus Christ has been given to others, God has raised up a great work.

Do you have a vision for the fields that are white and ready to harvest? Are you in a place where you are being trained to lay down your life for others?

I must have a schedule that is dedicated to others. If I were to begin giving up certain things

in my schedule that are important to God, it would affect my value system.

When a schedule gets extremely busy, usually the first thing to go is soul winning. But if I don't go soul winning, I won't pray for souls. If I don't pray for souls, I won't read my Bible, which tells me to go soul winning. If I don't read the Bible, I will have no hunger for God. Without a hunger for God, I will have a hunger for the world, and I will eventually fall into my areas of human weakness and rely upon my areas of human strength. Then I will sublimate, seeking fulfillment through things outside of God's will. In my sublimation, I will become reactionary. I will start blaming others, instead of living for them.

It's a downward trend—the moment I start giving up certain spiritual requirements in my value system, I will begin to lose experientially what I have gained in Jesus Christ. That is why I have purposed never to give up what I have gained, and I will not give up what I am doing now. On the other hand, if I add something to my present schedule, God will give me the power and the strength that I need to do it. I will grow closer to Him because I am serving others.

Prosperity by Life-Giving

Living for others has brought prosperity into my life, into my marriage. I have a tremendous wife who lives in such a self-forgetful way. One of the five thousand reasons why I love my wife is that she shares in releasing me to serve God seven days and seven nights a week. Not one time has she ever said to me, "Who did you see? Where did you go? You're never home!" Instead, it's always, "I'm praying for you. I know you're doing something important, even if it's talking to three kids in an alley."

I accept the imparted righteousness of God through the Word and let Jesus rule my life. He motivates me and energizes me to do things for my Father in Heaven. When I'm living for others, the "old man" isn't allowed out of the closet. I leave him there! The old man is crucified and buried with Christ; he cannot come out, unless I give him permission. Do you realize if you don't wake up the old man, you won't have his lust problems? Now why would I want to give him permission to come out and make my life miserable? I'm too busy! I'm living for others.

If I love someone and I am willing to lay down my life for him, then I can't have prob-

lems with my old sin nature, which lives only for itself. If I live to love others, I will receive from the pulpit and invest in the Body.

A Vision for Life-Giving

Years ago, when I met Dr. John Rice, I wasn't sure what he would be like. With a soft voice and his simple way, he said, "You thought I would speak against some preacher. I will not. I'm going to speak about how to love Jesus." Then he spoke a message on soul winning. The next night, soul winning. The night after that, it was soul winning. He said "You think I'm gonna change my message, but I'm not. It's gonna be on soul winning." Tears came down his cheeks. He didn't say anything new, but everything he said was life-giving.

We must have a vision for others in our Jerusalem. ...for others in our Judea. ...for others in our Samaria, and in the uttermost parts of the world. We need a heavenly vision!

Jesus wept as He looked down at Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44). He was thinking of others there; others who would not receive His visitation, others who would not let themselves be gathered unto God.

We are living in the most crucial moment in

human history. Everything that's meaningful in our lives comes from Jesus Christ. Let's seize this moment by living for others. Life can be very competitive as we struggle in the midst of Satan's temptations, enticements, and sublimations. But as we fellowship with God in light and love, we all come out winners in the competition.

Let's commit ourselves to others. Let's make commitments to study and pray so that we can serve. Whatever we do, in word and deed, let's do it to glorify God. This way, we can have the maximum of maturity and stability; we can be Christians loaded with doctrine, love, life, and power. We can pray and see results. We can enjoy the manifestation of God and go forward in the victory of an abundant life as we seek Him and obey His Word.

When God gives us a commission, He also gives us the ability to carry out that commission. When He gives us a mandate, He gives us the power to obey it. When He gives us His Word, He gives us the provision to experience it.

If you were a death-giver before, after this message you won't be. I challenge you: Do not be negative for one week. Let God revolutionize your soul and make you a shining light in the

inner self through the gospel of the power of God's grace. If there was some way I could give you my son, and if I only had *one*, do you think I wouldn't give you the watch he's wearing, if I would give him to die for you? Do you think the Father, who gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for us, won't give us everything the Son is?

The Bible says the Lord wants to freely give you *all* things (Romans 8:32). If He spared not His own Son, would He not freely give us *all* things? Why? Because He's a life-giver, a prayer-answerer; He hears. He's a life-giver!

Start drinking, and continue to drink from the fountain of mercy, from the rivers of His compassion, and from the joy of His abundant life.

CONCLUSION

Sometimes, when we first get to know God, we ask Him for *things*. But after we have known Him for some time, and we have tasted and seen that He is good, we only want Jesus, and we want others to have Him in their lives as well.

Jesus wants to build up an army of resurrection life-givers, people who will seize their moments and redeem the time. He needs life-givers, not death-givers. He needs a building crew, not a wrecking crew.

Build yourself up in God. Build up others when you meet them. Edify your husband, edify your wife. Don't compete, but edify. And if you're not married, then edify your dog or your cat! or your funny looking bird!

Everywhere we go, we need to give others the life of Jesus Christ. There is more than enough negativity in the atmosphere today. What the world is giving people will only bring death. Only Jesus Christ can bring forth life.