

## Spring into Life

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I enjoy movies that have inventions and science fiction. One Disney classic that I always enjoy is the *Absent Minded Professor*, possibly because I share some of his attributes. Professor Brainard invents a very bouncy substance he calls “flubber.” He cannot seem to interest anyone in investing in his invention, but he is successful in helping the local basketball team win by putting some flubber on the bottom of their shoes. Because of flubber, they are able to leap (bounce) great distances and heights, winning the most critical game of the season.

Bouncing to new heights—in a way, that is what the Christian life is all about. Jesus Christ said in John 10:10, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

God created us to enjoy life here on earth. He gave us all we need to sustain life and to thrive in the abundance of the natural world around us. We live in a beautiful part of the country. With the warmth of Spring the last few weeks, the trees and bushes are bursting with new life. The grass on the hills is once again becoming a thriving carpet of green. Spring represents to me a time of new life. I think I have a little bit of chlorophyll in me, the green substance in plants that converts the light of the sun into energy. After the long season of cold winter, I am bursting forth with the excitement of new life.

But my excitement goes deeper than simply the beauty of Spring. I am excited to let the Son produce his energy in me, not through photosynthesis but by metamorphosis. Paul the Apostle

wrote in Colossians 1:27-29, “God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.”

New life is why Jesus came. During this season of Easter in the church calendar, we marvel in the newness of the hope we have in Christ. The life that Jesus brings to us is one that is not dependent upon the weather. I have heard many people say that if we do not get any rain in the coming weeks, it is going to be a bad summer. This new life is not dependent on our economic status, whether or not we have a job, own a home, or even live in a shelter. This life is not dependent on the health of our bodies; we are all guaranteed to get sick and die someday. This new life is emergent with Christ in us.

What does it mean to let Christ’s life flow through me? I think Paul says it best in Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

This life is evidenced in maturity, best seen when we become complete in Christ, with him as the Lord and Master of our life. The Holy Spirit teaches us the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and we become more and more like Christ. As Jesus relied on the Father for all things, we too come to rely on the Father through the Son for all things. Life is only complete when Jesus Christ dwells in the center. From this center bursts forth forgiveness from our past, power for victorious living in the present, and hope for the future.

This Spring I encourage you to look deep within yourself to see the energy source which drives you. Are you trying to bounce

through life, more often falling in pain and discouragement, or are you springing to new life with the optimism that comes only through the grace of God in Christ Jesus?