



Don't Slip Back.

“For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”

The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 1:18-19 (NLT)

My brother, a landscaper, was known for his bright red pickup truck. He gave me a great summer job.

One day, driving to our next stop, the engine sputtered – we were out of gas.

“Oh no!” I shouted.

But Bill, calmly reached down, flipped a switch, and instantly all was

well.

The truck had two tanks – news to me!

Later, the engine sputtered again. This time, Bill looked puzzled. He glanced at the fuel gauge – empty. Then he studied the switch and smiled. Somehow it had slipped back to the empty tank. Another flip, and we were back in business.

Phew!

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” Jesus Christ (John 10:10 NIV)

Like that switch, accepting Christ connected you to a brand-new tank – a Full Life, bottomless!

“So you must live as God’s obedient children. Don’t slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn’t know any better then.” The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 1:14)

Yet how easy it is to slip back to the Empty Life we inherited – especially when our enemy works relentlessly to deceive us, even redefining “life to the full.”

Reflect: Have I slipped back into my Empty Life?

Looking back on my past and after listening to others reflect on theirs, we describe the Empty Life as Paul did:

“Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done. Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip.” The Apostle Paul (Romans 1:28-29)

Who doesn't detest this Empty Life? Seemingly black and white, we labor – not so successfully – with self-discipline and willpower not to slip back. Yet confusion and greater challenge creep in when we ask, “What does the Full Life Jesus promised actually look like?” Suddenly, the contrast blurs.

That conniver goes to work. Knowing we belong to Christ, he distorts our thinking – turning Jesus from the treasure into the means of building “my perfect little life”: comfort, health, blessing, control... Admit it—who wouldn't want this *Full Life*?

His mantra echoes the Burger King slogan: “Have it your way!” The world remains our measuring stick, and we try to leverage Christ to get the life we really want.

“And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God?”

(James 4:3-4)

Desire for this *Full Life* leaves us at odds with God – just better-behaved enemies.

Consider: Desiring Jesus' Full Life should affect what I pray for.

What's the Full Life Jesus promised us, then?

- **Intimacy** – a restored relationship with God.
- **Freedom** – forgiveness from guilt, fear, shame, and destructive sin so we can fully become who he created us to be – perfectly unique!
- **Transformation** – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. A grateful heart in all circumstances.
- **Purpose** – a role in his Kingdom Mission.
- **Love** – loving God so much that we love others.
- **Holiness** – being set apart for him.

How different – and better – this Full Life is from “my perfect little life”! Jesus uses eternity as his measuring stick. That changes everything!

Think about it... how might desiring **this** Full Life recast your prayers?

Imagine: Deep roots keep me from slipping back.

Are you to strive for Jesus' Full Life? Look again at the list – desire it, but which part can you gain on your own? None!

"I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God." The Apostle Paul (Ephesians 3:16-19)

Instead of relying on willpower, pray that, through the empowering of the Spirit, you will be made complete with Jesus' Full Life. Christ in you is the only power that keeps you from slipping back – trust him. Sink your roots deep into his vast love. Secured by his blood – your priceless ransom, you...

Won't slip back.

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- **Reflect:** *"What do my prayers reveal about what I believe the Full Life is?"*

- **Ask:** “How do I need to reset my understanding of the Full Life to align with what Jesus meant?”
- **Act:** Begin reshaping your prayers to reflect Jesus’ promise of Full Life.

Don’t know my Mission? [Start here!](#)

Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

I’m alive with eternal overflowing life – life to the full!

“When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right. And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom. But now you are free from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

The Apostle Paul | Romans 6:20-23 (NLT)



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