

FOREWORD BY JIM CYMBALA

LIVING

THE

*Christ
Life*

366 DAILY READINGS
BY CLASSIC DEEPER-LIFE AUTHORS

REBECCA ENGLISH LAWSON
GENERAL EDITOR

A scenic landscape photograph of a lake with mountains in the background and a wooden dock in the foreground. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding landscape. The mountains are green and blue, and the dock is made of wooden posts and planks.

P R A I S E F O R
Living the Christ Life

Rebecca Lawson truly captures what it means to be completely and unashamedly filled with the Spirit. As she rightly notes, “the results of genuine, Spirit-filled living will produce revival.” My prayer is that *Living the Christ Life* is one of the books that sparks another spiritual awakening—individually and corporately.

SHANE IDLEMAN

Lead pastor, Westside Christian Fellowship, Lancaster, California
Author, *Oh God, Would You Rend the Heavens?* and *If My People*

The center of our lives is our devotional life. So many times we don't need something new—we need to go back and learn from those who have met with God in the past. From Scripture to the saints of old, this devotional stirs us again to live a life worthy of God's name, fully surrendered to Him. Let it transform you to be fully and completely His so that the world may see again His grace and glory through His church.

JIMMY SIEBERT

Senior pastor, Antioch Community Church, Waco, Texas
Founder and senior leader, Antioch Ministries International
Author, *Passion and Purpose: Believing the Church Can Still Change the World*

Few realize the spiritual profundity that existed between the nineteenth and twentieth centuries at the Keswick Conventions. This collection of devotional readings introduces a new generation to the beauty, joy, and resurrection power that come from living in union with Jesus Christ. If you truly want to walk more closely with Jesus, these classic devotional readings will reinvigorate your faith, challenge your complacency, and refresh your soul.

KATHY MORALES, ED.D, M.DIV

Women's ministry director, Fervent (a Calvary Chapel), Las Vegas, Nevada
Author, *For Such a Time as This* and *Caught Up*

Living the Christ Life is a timeless collection of some of the most inspiring devotions ever written. This compilation is perfect for anyone desiring a deeper walk with Jesus.

DAN CARROLL

Senior pastor, Water of Life Community Church, Fontana, California
Author, *Into the Heart of God*, *Bound to the Heart of God*, and *Trusting the Heart of God*

Living the Christ Life is a resource/book that all Christians will want to read over and over again. Hearing from these spiritual giants of the past will ignite insights and perspectives that they uniquely and powerfully bring.

TOMMY WALKER

Worship leader, Christian Assembly, Eagle Rock, California
Producer and recording artist, *The Pursuit of God: Songs for a Thirsty Soul*,
based on A. W. Tozer's celebrated devotional classic *The Pursuit of God*
Author, *He Knows My Name* and *Songs from Heaven*

I cannot think of anything more encouraging than to hear from those who've gone before us the ways the Lord taught them that "living the Christ life" is not only achievable but glorious. Thank you, Rebecca Lawson, for compiling such a wonderful collection of daily readings that will spur on believers to seek Him more and more!

DÁMARIS CARBAUGH

Recording artist, *Giving My Life Away* and *Damaris Live: Not Ashamed*
Sought-after conference speaker in the USA and Latin America
Former featured soloist with Day of Discovery and the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

The life-changing truth of Christ in the believer is beautifully highlighted in *Living the Christ Life*. Becky has woven together rich excerpts from classic authors in a thematic way that builds throughout the year's readings. If you desire to experience Jesus, *Living the Christ Life* will be used by the Spirit to nurture your faith and bring you into a greater experience of "not I, but Christ." Having read multiple daily devotionals, I believe that this one ranks with the timeless and the best.

JOHN VAN GELDEREN

President, Revival Focus Ministries, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Author, *The Revival Journey*, *The Liberating Life of Jesus*, and *Friendship with the Holy Spirit*

Living the Christ Life is a goldmine for the hungry-hearted Christian. When one finally discovers the futility of self-will and self-effort, he is ready to learn about the life of Christ within his redeemed soul. The Christ life is the only antidote for the self-life. These Christ-centered and cross-centered devotionals will feed your soul. The insights and liberating truths found here point to the only life worth living—the Christ life.

HAROLD VAUGHAN

President, Christ Life Ministries, Vinton, Virginia
Author, *Protocols for Prayer*, *Forgiveness: How to Get Along with Everybody All the Time*,
and *Revival in Our Time*

It is imperative today for every believer in Jesus to nurture his or her roots to go deeper. We hear the phrase “supply line issues” and are tempted to fear. But our mission is far more than personal survival: abiding in Jesus allows us to distribute His love to a spiritually malnourished world. In *Living the Christ Life*, I love month 1, “Becoming Hungry for Christ.” What a great launching point—right after the holidays, when everyone is bloated from too much of everything, Becky offers readers the opportunity to focus on what really counts: to be hungry for Christ!

PAUL CLARK

Singer, songwriter, recording artist
A founding father of the Jesus Movement

As a self-proclaimed devotional-holic, I can’t wait to add *Living the Christ Life* to my rotation! The book contains some of my favorite authors as well as some who are new to me, so it’s a perfect blend. There is a lot of wisdom and understanding to be gained from this “great cloud of witnesses,” and anyone, regardless of the depth of his or her faith walk, will grow a deeper understanding of life with God by reading these selections.

JANE ALBRIGHT

Former women’s head basketball coach, University of Nevada, Reno
Winner, Fellowship of Christian Athlete’s annual Kay Yow Heart of a Coach Award, 2009
Owner, Things Above Christian bookstore, Graham, North Carolina

It is the duty of all who believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world to follow Him as closely as possible. This means keeping your eyes fixed on Him—on who He is and what He has done. Both the daily reading of the Bible and of books like this will help. If you take your eyes off Christ, you will fall. Fixing your eyes on Jesus is your task! Do it well, and do it continuously!

RICHARD OWEN ROBERTS

One of the world’s foremost experts on revival
Founder, International Awakening Ministries

Spiritual hunger for a deeper life in Christ is never out of date. The Keswick Convention may not be familiar to the current generation of believers, but the longing for spiritual power to live the Christian life and effectively serve God is inevitable when we find ourselves powerless and discouraged. To help us pursue a closer walk with God, this valuable book is being offered from the writings of men and women who knew God intimately and lived and preached the victorious life, or the Spirit-filled life, as it was variously called.

LEONA CHOY

Author, *Andrew Murray: The Authorized Biography*

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T H E

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366 DAILY READINGS
BY CLASSIC DEEPER-LIFE AUTHORS

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GENERAL EDITOR



GLADBOOKS
P R E S S

DEEPER-LIFE AUTHORS FEATURED

Paul Billheimer
William Boardman
Amy Carmichael
Samuel Chadwick
Charles Finney
Norman Grubb
Vance Havner
Roy Hession
Evan Hopkins
F. J. Huegel
J. H. Jowett
Guy King
William Law
J. C. Metcalfe
F. B. Meyer
H. C. G. Moule
Andrew Murray
Watchman Nee
Jessie Penn-Lewis
Hannah Whitall Smith
Corrie ten Boom
Charles Trumbull
Arthur Wallis

WITH ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIES OF

J. H. Merle d'Aubigné
William Carosso
Thomas Harford-Battersby
Rees Howells
"Mr. Paul"
Hudson Taylor
C. T. Studd
Hanmer Webb-Peploe

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Cover photo of Derwent Water at the village of Keswick with the mountain Skiddaw in the background, Lake District, Cumbria, UK

Author photo by Greg Schneider

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*Thus says the LORD:
“Stand in the ways and see,
and ask for the old paths, where the good way is,
and walk in it;
then you will find rest for your souls.”*

J E R E M I A H 6 : 1 6

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FOREWORD

JIM CYMBALA

The Christian life can only be lived out on a day-by-day basis. Even as Jesus taught us to ask for *daily* bread, so it is with the grace that God grants each new day to those who look to Him in faith. The primary calling that Jesus gave His disciples was simply to “be with Him” (Mark 3:14). That kind of spiritual fellowship can only be experienced one day at a time.

Living the Christ Life, compiled by Rebecca Lawson, has been a great help to me in my attempts to walk with Christ each day. The authors she has chosen and the excerpts selected from their writings provide excellent food for the soul.

I am thankful to God that *Living the Christ Life* is being republished and made available to Christians who feel their need of daily inspiration from God’s Word.

P R E F A C E T O T H E 2 0 2 2 E D I T I O N

I like to read. Some of the books I've read over the years have been interesting or helpful or informative, and I have appreciated them; but my favorite books are the ones that have spoken deeply to my heart.

The authors represented in this book have done just that. Thirteen years ago, when I was asked by CLC Publications to choose excerpts from their classic books for a one-year devotional, I spent several months with authors like Andrew Murray, F. B. Meyer, and Amy Carmichael, among others. The testimonies and teaching of these people who had walked closely with the Lord drove home powerful truths to my spirit day after day. All these authors had one topic in common: abiding in Christ, or living the Christ life. In essence, this is the idea that we must lay aside self and depend on Christ for holiness, service, and victory (see a helpful explanation of this in the April 5 entry by Evan Hopkins). When we do, we will serve in God's power, not our own, and the results will be eternal.

This concept wasn't a generic biblical idea to these authors—it was the basis of their entire lives. Abiding in Christ led Amy Carmichael to give up her life in Ireland and England and devote herself to ministering the gospel to children she rescued from sexual slavery (known more tastefully in her day as temple service). It brought about the powerful outbreaks of revival that Andrew Murray experienced as a pastor in South Africa and led to his prolific teaching and writing ministry that still strengthens and challenges believers today. It gave Corrie ten Boom the power to hold fast to her faith as a prisoner in Ravensbrück concentration camp, forgive her betrayer and captors, and spend the rest of her life taking the message of forgiveness around the world as a “tramp for the Lord.” And it enabled Vance Havner, when he was emotionally devastated at the loss of his beloved wife, to write,

When before the throne we stand in Him complete, all the riddles that puzzle us here will fall into place and we shall know in fulfillment what we now believe in faith—that all things

work together for good in His eternal purpose. No longer will we cry “My God, why?” Instead, “alas” will become “Alleluia,” all question marks will be straightened into exclamation points, sorrow will change to singing, and pain will be lost in praise.¹

Don't we need this kind of overcoming life ourselves? So much today distracts us from the deep things of God, divides us into camps, and discourages us from the work of ministry, but God wants His church to be full of His life and power. In light of His promise that we are more than conquerors, why should we lose time living in our own strength or fall prey to the enemy's schemes that drag us down? As Pastor Jim Cymbala wrote in his book *Storm: Hearing Jesus for the Times We Live In*, “Our time is fixed and much shorter than most of us think.”² Regardless of our denominational affiliations or views on secondary matters, as we put off self and humbly ask God to fill us afresh, He will surely revive us, individually and corporately, and work through us in our day as He did through others in days past.

When the first edition of *Living the Christ Life* recently went out of print, I was thankful to be given the opportunity to update its look and release a new version. Several people have helped with this process. Thank you, Dave Fessenden and Jim Pitman of CLC Publications, for allowing me to produce a new edition of this book; I am grateful for our years of partnership in publishing books that make Christ known. Thank you to Greg Schneider for your outstanding photography—you are a true professional and a generous giver. Thank you, Jennifer Cullis, for your exacting attention to detail in proofreading; I can always count on you to be thorough. And to Rob Williams of InsideOut CreativeArts, thank you for the beautiful cover and interior design and for going above and beyond in contributing to this project. Thank you as well to each endorser of this volume and especially to Pastor Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle for writing the foreword. Finally, thank you to my husband, Steve, whose constant encouragement and support have been a huge blessing to me in the shaping of this book.

May this new edition of teachings on the Christ life, which the authors in this devotional so helpfully unfold for us, be used of God to speak deeply to your hearts, as it has to mine, and to revive His people once again.

P R E F A C E T O T H E 2 0 0 9 E D I T I O N

The compilation of this book fulfills a long-held desire of the publishing team at CLC Publications. For many years CLC has produced books by deeper-life authors such as Amy Carmichael, Andrew Murray, F. B. Meyer, and Roy Hession, to name a few, many of whom were closely associated with the well-known Keswick Convention in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Authors from varying backgrounds such as Corrie ten Boom, Vance Havner, and Samuel Chadwick proclaimed the same message of power and victory found in walking closely with Christ. The CLC team felt that a collection of these writings on living the Christ life would make a valuable contribution to the church today.

Some of the authors featured in this book are not well known in our day. Because of that, CLC decided that a compilation of selections from their works would provide a simple and accessible format to those who may be reading them for the first time. We are excited to reintroduce these men and women whose message is as vital today as when it was first written.

We chose excerpts from approximately 120 CLC titles to form a clear presentation of what some call “the deeper Christian life”—essentially living in union with Christ rather than depending on ourselves. We then arranged the entries to build a progressive picture of finding that life: wanting more of Him; trying to be holy and useful; then discovering God’s provision through our identification with Christ in His death and resurrection. The results of that identification—increasing rest, an effectual prayer life, and a revived and fruitful church—are seen in the book’s later entries.

We edited punctuation and capitalization slightly throughout the book for consistency of style. Very occasionally we adjusted a word or transition for the sake of clarity. Otherwise, the text is unabridged from CLC’s most recent editions of these books (as of 2009) and faithful to the authors’ original writings.

Many thanks to John Van Gelderen of Revival Focus for allowing us to quote from his article “Keswick: A Good Word or a Bad One?” in the introduction. Thanks go also to Isaac Lemon for his careful proofreading of the manuscript and his helpful observations. Acknowledgement is particularly due to Grace Palmer, who gave many hours helping choose excerpts and offering invaluable feedback on the organization and spiritual content of this book, and to Dick Brodhag, whose amazing patience through many revisions of layout and composition and whose kind, encouraging words have been much appreciated.

INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest tendencies of Christians is to try to live for Christ in our own wisdom and strength. We know that in ourselves we are hopelessly flawed, yet almost without realizing it, we continually strive to do and to become what God requires of us.

This leads to two problems: In our personal lives, we can become discouraged by the ongoing struggle—trying to be holy but continually falling short. And second, in our service for the Lord, we can easily start programs and hold events that fail to produce real spiritual change. Like Moses, we set out to help others, only to realize that the methods we thought so useful may not be producing eternal fruit.

Because this is so common, it's easy to be unaware that we are working in the flesh rather than the Spirit—keeping so busy with meetings and plans that we completely overlook the fact that we lack something deeper. But the fact is that only Christ can live the abundant, victorious life He wants us to have. If it's God's life we want and God's work we want to do, we need to operate in a different way.

This is what Jesus taught. He told us that He came so we could have abundant life (John 10:10)—His life. The apostle Paul later expounded on this, writing repeatedly in his letters about the fullness of life and how to live it. The sixth, seventh, and eighth chapters of Romans especially focus on the fact that we cannot live this life in our own strength but that the Holy Spirit can—and will—live through us, if by faith we receive Him and walk with Him.

The following statement summarizes it well:

The “Higher Life,” the “Deeper Life,” the “Victorious Life,” the “Spirit-filled Life,” the “Christ-Life” is not a new line of teaching. It is not a mere set of doctrines; it is not a set of motions; it is not a conference, a convention, or a movement—it is a Life. That Life is a Person, and His name is Jesus! Jesus is the “Higher Life.” Jesus is the “Deeper Life.” Jesus is the “Victorious Life.” How can it be otherwise?

Sanctification or holiness by faith is simply accessing the “Holy Life” by faith. It is “I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me . . . by faith” (Gal. 2:20). Holiness by faith is accessing the Holy Life of Jesus to empower holy living and serving. It is becoming “partakers of His holiness” (Heb. 12:10), not imitators.

The focus . . . is not that you cannot sin, but that you are able not to sin because of the indwelling Christ. . . . The focus should not be on being defeated, but rather on victory in Christ by faith.¹

Seekers of a fuller life in Christ became prominent in mid-nineteenth-century Britain and America as a growing dissatisfaction with traditional Christianity was emerging in the church. The 1859 revival in Ireland and meetings held by D. L. Moody in Britain and Ireland in the 1870s, among other events, brought impetus to this increasing desire and sparked the gathering of Christians in Britain and America for focused teaching. Many conventions were founded in the mid to late nineteenth century to propagate the message of living the Christ life.

As a result of this growth of spiritual hunger and appropriation of biblical truths, evangelism and missions exploded from Britain and America. And it’s not far-fetched to say that the various revivals that occurred between 1904 and 1910 around the world were fed by this increased spiritual enthusiasm.

Throughout church history men and women have hungered for a deeper walk with Christ. From the Galatians in the early church whom Paul rebuked (“Are you so foolish?”) to Martin Luther to George Whitefield to D. L. Moody to the Keswick founders to A. W. Tozer to Corrie ten Boom, the answer has been the same: “Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

The results of genuine, Spirit-filled living will produce revival. Abandoning our own efforts in exchange for the powerful work of Christ living in and through us will result in life, joy, rest, increasing spiritual maturity, prayer, a desire for service, and a love for people.

CLC Publications began publishing deeper-life books in 1945, seeking to keep in print these classic teachings on living “the life that is Christ.” For nearly a century these books have blessed countless numbers, and it is our prayer that the truths collected from them in this devotional will have the same effect on individuals today.



January

BECOMING HUNGRY FOR CHRIST

THE TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM CARVOSSO

William Carvosso became an orphan at age ten and was apprenticed to a farmer. He had little education and knew nothing of the art of writing until he was sixty-five years old. In his youth he was inducted into the mysteries of cock-fighting, wrestling, card-playing, and other pursuits.

At twenty-one years of age, he was brought to Christ. “The moment this resolution was formed in my heart,” he says, “Christ appeared within, and God pardoned all my sins and set my soul at liberty. The Spirit Himself now bore witness with my spirit that I was a child of God.”

For a time life was peaceful, joyous, and happy, but he soon discovered a deeper need. He described it this way: “My heart appeared to me as a small garden with a large stump in it, which had been recently cut down level with the ground and a little loose dirt spread over it. Seeing something shooting up I did not like, I attempted to pluck it up and discovered the deadly remains of the carnal mind. What I wanted was inward holiness.”

One night, about a year after his conversion, he returned from a meeting greatly distressed with a sense of his unholiness and turned aside into a lonely barn to wrestle with God. While kneeling there on the threshing floor, he gained a little light but not enough to burst his bonds

and set him free. Shortly afterward, however, in a prayer meeting, his eyes were opened to see clearly. “I felt,” he says, “that I was nothing, and Christ was All in All. I now cheerfully received Him in all His roles: my Prophet to teach me, my Priest to atone for me, my King to reign over me. Oh, what boundless, boundless happiness there is in Christ!”

WILLIAM BOARDMAN, *THE HIGHER CHRISTIAN LIFE*

JANUARY 7

Lo, I am with you all the days.

MATTHEW 28:20, YLT

As real and complete and certain as His suretyship was when He bore sin and gave His life for you, so real and certain is the fellowship which He holds out to you when He says, “I am *with you* all the days.”

Too often it appears as if it were not true, as if it could not possibly be true. At other times you could not live long if you felt yourself to be so sinful and miserable as you are. And yet it is true that *Jesus is with you*. Only you do not know it, you do not enjoy it, because you do not believe it. But as soon as you learn to rely not upon your own feelings or on your own experience but on what He has promised and to direct your expectations according to faith in that which He has said—namely, that He will be with you—it will become your blessedness. “I am with you.” Jesus Himself abides with His own. Oh, the blessed certainty of His presence and love which will not abandon us! He—the Living, the Loving, the Almighty One—He Himself is with us and in a position to make Himself known to us.

“With you all the days”—all the days without one single exception. And thus also all the day. Whether I think of it or not, there He is the whole day—near me, with me. Not on my own faithfulness but in that faithfulness of Yours which awakens my confidence and bestows on me Your own nearness, I have the assurance of an unbroken fellowship with You, my beloved Lord.

ANDREW MURRAY, *THE LORD'S TABLE*

JANUARY 2

If when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

ROMANS 5:10

God makes it quite clear in His Word that to every human need He has but one answer: His Son, Jesus Christ. In all His dealings with us, He works by taking us out of the way and substituting Christ in our place.

The Son of God died instead of us for our forgiveness; He lives instead of us for our deliverance. So we can speak of two substitutions: a Substitute on the cross who secures our forgiveness and a Substitute within who secures our victory. It will help us greatly and save us from much confusion if we keep constantly before us this fact: that God will answer all our questions in one way only, namely, by showing us more of His Son.

WATCHMAN NEE, *A TABLE IN THE WILDERNESS*

DO YOU LONG TO KNOW *God* MORE?

Many Christians are hungry for a deeper walk with God, but too often we fail to see the results we hope for. Why is this?

Frequently it's because we're trying to please God by the power of self instead of the power of the Spirit. Sometimes, especially if we've spent years missing the mark, it's easy to become discouraged and give up altogether.

Godly men and women throughout history have understood this struggle. In this easy-to-read 366-day devotional, people like Amy Carmichael, F. B. Meyer, Andrew Murray, and others who walked closely with God show us how to die to self and to surrender to the Spirit. Their writings, blending teaching and testimony, unfold what it means to abide in Christ through topics like the cross, obedience, prayer, revival, and missions.

From the days of the early church to today, the answer has been the same: "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). As we surrender the self-life for the Christ life, God will revive us, both individually and corporately. The result will be life, joy, rest, increasing spiritual maturity, prayer, a desire for service, and a love for people.

My prayer is that *Living the Christ Life* is one of the books that sparks another spiritual awakening—individually and corporately.

SHANE IDLEMAN

Lead pastor, Westside Christian Fellowship, Lancaster, California



REBECCA LAWSON operates GladBooks Editorial Services, helping pastors and ministry leaders shape, edit, and publish their books. She has worked as associate editor for CLC Publications and written Sunday school curriculum for Gospel Light Publishing. Besides compiling and editing *Living the Christ Life*, Rebecca has written study guides for Watchman Nee's *Sit, Walk, Stand* and Michael Catt's *Fireproof Your Life*. She has a particular interest in church history and revival. Rebecca and her husband, Steven, live in Southern California.

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