

## Devotional 8

# The Life That Cannot Be Exhausted

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*Daily Renewal Is the Overflow of a Life Hidden in God*

## The Awakening

There is a vision of the Christian life in which renewal is a project with a finish line — a season of intensive spiritual growth that, once completed, yields a stable, sustainable state. The spiritually mature person, in this vision, no longer needs daily renewal the way the new believer does. They have built the foundation. They can coast.

Scripture offers no encouragement to this vision. Paul, at the end of his life, writes from a Roman prison: 'I want to know Christ — yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death' (Philippians 3:10). This is not a young convert's aspiration. This is the apostle who had been in the faith for three decades, who had written most of the New Testament, who had planted churches across the Mediterranean — and he writes as though he has not yet arrived. Because he has not. Neither have you. Neither has anyone this side of glorification.

Daily renewal is not a phase you pass through. It is the permanent posture of the life that is hidden with Christ in God.

### COLOSSIANS 3:3-4 — FOUNDATIONAL TEXT

*For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

## What the Text Reveals

### *You Died: The Past That Grounds the Present*

'You died' — the aorist tense again, the accomplished fact. The old self, the old life, the old loyalty structure — these have been crucified with Christ (Romans 6:6). This is not future aspiration. It is present reality. Every act of daily renewal is grounded in a death that has already occurred. You are not trying to kill the old self — it has been killed. You are living out of a death that has already been accomplished.

### *Hidden with Christ: The Security of Invisible Identity*

'Your life is now hidden with Christ in God.' Kekruptai — perfect passive — 'has been and remains hidden.' The location of your true life is not visible to the world, not accessible to the enemy, not dependent on external circumstances. It is secure in the most secure location in the universe: hidden in God, through union with Christ. Daily renewal draws on a supply that cannot be depleted because the supply is the life of Christ Himself.

### *When Christ Appears: The Eschatological Horizon*

Verse 4 supplies the horizon that gives the present its shape: 'When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.' Daily renewal is not merely a present-tense activity — it is preparation for an eschatological disclosure. The life being renewed day by day is the life that will be revealed in full when Christ returns. What is hidden now will be unveiled then. What is being formed in daily renewal will be the substance of that disclosure.

## The Biblical Architecture

John 15:4–5 gives the most extended treatment of the sustained-renewal principle in the Gospels: 'Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.' The daily renewal imperative is the imperative of abiding — maintaining the relational connection to the Source of life. The vine is not renewed by effort. It is renewed by remaining attached to the vine.

Philippians 3:12–14 supplies the eschatological momentum that prevents the abiding life from becoming passive: 'Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on... forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.' The life hidden in God does not settle. It presses forward, pulled by the eschatological horizon.

Romans 8:18–21 places daily renewal within the largest possible frame: the entire creation is waiting for the renewal that will come at Christ's return — 'the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.' Your daily renewal is not a private spiritual project. It is a sign within creation of the cosmic renewal that is coming. Every renewed life is a foretaste of the new creation.

### CORE THESIS

***Daily renewal is not a phase, a discipline, or a season — it is the permanent posture of the life hidden in God. Because your life is secured in Christ, daily renewal draws on a supply that cannot be exhausted. And because Christ will appear, daily renewal is not maintenance of a static state but the progressive preparation of a life that will be fully disclosed at His return.***

### THE QUESTION THAT MATTERS MOST

*What would it mean to live today as someone whose life is genuinely hidden in God — not anxious about its security, not dependent on external validation, not exhausted by the effort of sustaining a spiritual image? What would be different about your decisions, your relationships, your response to difficulty, if your identity were truly and restfully located in Christ?*

### A PRAYER FROM THE AWAKENING

*Father, we confess that we have been sustaining a visible life while neglecting the hidden one. We have worked to maintain an external spiritual reputation while the interior life — the one hidden in You — has gone untended.*

*Your Word announces what we keep forgetting: our life is not visible. It is not vulnerable. It is not dependent on the world's assessment or our own performance. It is hidden — secured, sustained, and held — in You, through Christ.*

*\*\*\*Let us live today out of that hiddenness. Not anxious about our standing. Not competing for visibility. Not exhausted by the effort of appearing renewed. Simply, restfully, daily renewed from the inexhaustible life that is ours in Christ.\*\*\**

*When He appears, we will appear with Him in glory. Until then, renew us — day by day, from the inside, from the hidden place where He keeps us. Amen.*

### Scripture Treasury

CATEGORY	REFERENCE	SCRIPTURE
<b>Hidden in God</b>	<b>Colossians 3:3-4</b>	<i>You died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.</i>
	<b>Psalms 27:5</b>	<i>In the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.</i>
<b>Abiding as Daily Renewal</b>	<b>John 15:4-5</b>	<i>Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine.</i>
	<b>John 15:9-10</b>	<i>Remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.</i>
<b>Pressing Forward</b>	<b>Philippians 3:12-14</b>	<i>I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.</i>
	<b>Hebrews 6:1</b>	<i>Therefore let us move beyond the elementary teachings about Christ and be taken forward to maturity.</i>
<b>The Eschatological Horizon</b>	<b>Romans 8:18</b>	<i>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.</i>
	<b>1 John 3:2-3</b>	<i>When Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.</i>