

# Are you living your dreams or are you living your fears?

## 52 Life Lessons Lesson One

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Hello this is Scott Johnson and I want to welcome you to the first issue of 52 life lessons. What is 52 life lessons?

Let's just say I want you to experience greater results in your life than you've ever experienced before. Now I realize that you are already experiencing some measure of success in your life. As you and I both know there's always more room to improve and seek greater results. This weekly series is meant to assist you in living a more fruitful and productive life.

I am going to start out by reading a passage in the Bible. It is found in Ephesians Chapter 3 Verse 20 that says, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think according to the power that worketh in us." Wait, scratch that, let's back up for a moment. We all too often pull a scripture out of context and ignore the other scriptures around that passage that helps us get a better understanding. Let me read that in context starting with the previous verse.

This is a prayer that the Apostle Paul prayed for those in the Church of Ephesus. He prayed that "Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you being rooted and grounded in love" (Eph. 3:17). I want to call your attention to the word love, because we're going to talk about that in a moment. This passage of scripture goes on to say, "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3:18-19)

Now let's go back to that passage we read earlier that says, "Now to him who's able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us." Now I don't know if you realize it or not but according to this passage, love is a prerequisite for

you and I to be able to experience the full extent, the full measure of God's power in our life; his ability that's to be released in and through us! In other words, experiencing God's love on a personal level is what it is all about. This is so important in order for us to experience all that God has for us in our lives.

To be honest, I just don't want you to realize this is truth, I want you to experience it as a fact in every area of your life. I want this love of God to be able to be manifested in and through you. God's love goes beyond saying the words I love you. It is demonstrated to us through action. Do you want to know what God's love looks like? Well it's simple. Just look around you and you will see the beauty of nature in the smallest molecule to the waterfalls of Niagara; you'll see the demonstration of God's love toward man.

Now, the reason that I am so emphatic about this is because Ninety-nine percent of the world's religions want you to see God in a totally opposite way. They want you to see God as vindictive or they want you to see God as manipulative or self centered or even angry. God is not a God of wrath and punishment rather than a God of intense love for you. Ninety-nine percent of the world religions somehow would somehow have you believe that God is holding humanity hostage as it were with a gun to our head demanding that we serve him. Now, that could be from Islam to Hinduism, Judaism as well as many of the modern day cults that we see in our day.

The truth of the matter is as long as you hold a wrong concept of God's love toward you and toward humanity which represents His intentions toward you as a person; you will really never ever experience the demonstration of that love in a real and tangible way in your life.

It is interesting to note that even within Christianity we see the concepts of an angry God being displayed to us or preached. This kind of teaching comes out of an Old Testament, old covenant mindset. I am reminded about some of these Old Testament stories which show God's wrath. In fact, God asked Moses in the Old Testament in Number 14:11 "how long will these people reject me and how long will they not believe me with the signs which I performed among them". He went on to tell Moses that he would strike them down and disinherit them and raise Moses up another nation greater and mightier than Israelites. But Moses interceded for Israel and he reminded here in this passage that God was long suffering, that he is abundant in mercy and forgiving. So from the Old Testament we understand that God is a God of justice, God is a God of holiness, in fact, a God of righteousness which told us that no matter how well we perform we will never, ever measure up to that holiness and that righteousness of God.

And you see God understands this too. And this is why he sent his beloved son Jesus Christ into the world to take on the full wrath and punishment which you and I deserve. The New Testament under the new covenant, John Chapter 3 Verse 17 says, "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved." The message to you from God is I love you, I love you, I love you!

You see God wants to demonstrate his love to you in profound ways that will make a huge difference in your life. You've got to believe that for yourself. God is willing, God is able and God is ready to demonstrate his love to you in a real and tangible way. Once you discover this truth it will change everything for you.

Instead of a lifestyle of trying to measure up, you realize that God accepts you and that he's not willing that any man, any woman, boy or girl perish. You see your heart will become open in a

new refreshing way and as a result you will begin to experience this exceeding greatness of his power in your life daily.

What does this mean? It means that the quality of your life will increase along with greater results. This is Scott Johnson and I look forward to when our paths cross again next week.