



Let me ask you a direct question: What are you doing with your life? I know you are probably ready to stop reading this page, but before you do, please give me a moment to challenge you. James asks the early Christians a similar question, "for what is your life? It is a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." James 4:14. James tells us something we already know, but by doing so, reminds us of a truth we so easily forget. The fact is our lives are short. Just ask any elderly person, and they will tell how quickly time just "flew by." Again, I ask: What are you doing with YOUR life? Humans have a knack for staying busy. Busy working or playing. Busy with the family or church. Busy being busy. On my death bed, I do not imagine I will wish to be "doing" something. I imagine that I will want to see someone, hold someone's hand, or simply "be" in the presence of someone who loves me.

My point is: Life is what we make it. If I choose to consume my time with things or people that do not matter, at my life's end, I will have many regrets. However, if I choose to consume my life with things that DO matter, my life will be lived to the fullest. In fact, Jesus says this: "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." John 10:10. Jesus is

being very clear: There is a thief, the devil, trying to rob my life from me. His tactic is to steal, kill and ultimately destroy the precious and short life that I have. Not only does Jesus say there is a "thief" trying to steal, kill, and destroy our lives, Jesus goes further by saying, "I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly." The thief wants to destroy our lives and Jesus wants to give us an abundantly full life. How do we live life to the fullest like Jesus is referring to? There is a passage in Colossians that tells us the "how" to living a full life in Jesus. It says, "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus? What does that mean to you? I believe what the apostle Paul is saying to the Colossian church are these things:



First, live with *authority*. Whenever we see the word "name" in the Bible used like this, it means *authority*. So, if I am living in the "name of the Lord," that means I am living with the authority of Christ in me. That means fear doesn't have to reside in me because Jesus' name is in me, His authority resides in me. Fear cannot exist where strong, confident authority exists. The second thing that living in the "name of the Lord" means to the Christian is we live with access. I can live a full life having all access to Jesus, the Father and all of Heaven. Paul wrote the Ephesian church to describe this access, "For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father." He goes on to tell the result of our access, "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:18-19.

We live with authority and access but there is another element to living in the "name of the Lord." It is called *agreement*. As we walk on earth, it should be our goal to walk in agreement with God. That means our lives, to be lived to the fullest, will only happen when we align our attitudes *and* our behavior with the Lord's. I cannot be a member of an earthly organization and not follow the terms of agreement. Likewise, God has terms of His agreement written throughout sixty-six books of the Bible.

If a full life in Christ is our goal, it will be on God's terms, not ours. So, what are you doing with your life? Give your life to Christ, and let Him lead you to the fullest life you can imagine.