

Southern Adventist University
Knowledge Exchange

The Main Thing Devotional

Office of Ministry and Missions

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The Good Life

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“Behold, **the dwelling place of God is with man**. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God,” *Revelation 21:3b*

The Good Life

Are you living the abundant life? Do things like joy and peace consistently feel just out of reach? Do you struggle to believe the Bible because it doesn't seem trustworthy if it promises these things in your life but you don't experience them? Is it possible we expect a good life *from* God more than we know how to live life *with* Him?

“The Life With God posture is predicated on the view that relationship is at the core of the cosmos: God the Father *with* God the Son *with* God the Holy Spirit. And so we should not be surprised to discover that when God desired to restore his broken relationship with people, he sent his Son to dwell *with* us. His plan to restore his creation was not to send a list of rules and rituals to follow (Life Under God), nor was it the implementation of useful principles (Life Over God). He did not send a genie to grant us our desires (Life From God). Instead, God himself came to be *with* us—to walk with us once again as he had done in Eden in the beginning. Jesus entered into our dark existence to share our broken world and to illuminate a different way forward. His coming was a sudden and glorious catastrophe of good.”^[1]

In other words, “The good life isn't *from* God,” says Valerie Woerner, “It's *with* God.”

Just as John the Revelator sees a beautiful vision of God dwelling with His people and writes it down for our encouragement in Revelation 21:3, Scripture begins with a record of the story of man and woman, made in the image of God, experiencing the good life. A life of perfection. God walked *with* them, and they experienced intimate communion and relationship with him. They experienced joy and peace because they were *with* God Himself.

As you start classes and find a rhythm on campus, each week we'll share a devotional thought just like this in an effort to invite you to explore how you relate to God more deeply. We call it The Main Thing because it is our hope that you would make Jesus the main thing in your life, and as a result, experience a life that is abundantly good!

Reflection

1. How do you relate to God?
2. How do you *want* to relate to God?
3. As you consider making adjustments in the way you relate to God, what is the Holy Spirit convicting you to do in this upcoming week?

News and Resources

- Join us this week for Vespers at 7:30pm in the University Church with the Office of Ministry and Missions.
- Find a meaningful sense of belonging by joining a student or faculty/staff LifeGroup today: [click here](#).
- If you are feeling anxious or have recently experienced loss or grief, call 423.236.2782 to talk to a counselor on campus! (This is a free service for Southern students.)
- **Talk** with Chaplain [Anna Bennett](#) or [Joseph Khabbaz](#) if you need someone to pray with or have a desire to grow spiritually.

^[1] Jethani, Skye. 2011. *With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God*. Nashville, Thomas Nelson, 101.