

God's Declaration of In-dependence: Celebrate it

1. Accept God's New Life

John 5:24 (Msg) Anyone here who believes what I am saying right now and aligns himself with the Father, who has in fact put me in charge, has at this very moment the real, lasting life and is no longer condemned to be an outsider. This person has taken a giant step from the world of the dead to the world of the living.

Romans 6:2-3 (Msg) If we've left the country where sin is sovereign, how can we still live in our old house there? **(3)** Or didn't you realize we packed up and left there for good? That is what happened in baptism. When we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind; when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace—a new life in a new land!

Romans 6:11 (Msg) When Jesus died, he took sin down with him, but alive he brings God down to us.

Romans 6:23 (Msg) God's gift is *real life*, eternal life, delivered by Jesus

2. Fight for your God given Liberty

Romans 6:11-14 (Msg) From now on, think of it this way: Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word. You are dead to sin and alive to God. That's what Jesus did. **(12)** That means you must not give sin a vote in the way you conduct your lives. Don't give it the time of day. **(13)** Don't even run little errands that are connected with that old way of life. Throw yourselves wholeheartedly and full-time—remember, you've been raised from the dead!—into God's way of doing things. **(14)** Sin can't tell you how to live. After all, you're not living under that old tyranny any longer. You're living in the freedom of God.

Romans 8:11-13 (Msg) When God lives and breathes in you (and he does, as surely as he did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ's! **(12)** So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. **(13)** There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life.

3. Pursue God's Happiness

Matthew 6:33(NIV) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **(Msg)** Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

1 Timothy 6:11(Msg) But you, ... man of God: ... Pursue a righteous life—a life of wonder, faith, love, steadiness, courtesy. **(12)** Run hard and fast in the faith. Seize the eternal life, the life you were called to, the life you so fervently embraced in the presence of so many witnesses. **(13)** I'm charging you before the life-giving God and before Christ... **(14)** Keep this command to the letter, and don't slack off. Our Master, Jesus Christ, is on his way.