



# LifeSpot ... It's about life

## Life in dark days

"I like life," someone said. "It's something to do." Someone else said, "Life's OK. It beats the alternative." Not exactly stirring endorsements! How's your life? How's your year? The economy is down. World peace is down. Are you down too? Perhaps you're out of work or you face a challenge. If so, you'll find enduring strength in God's Word. Look at this word, for example: "How wonderful to live in the sunshine! . . . Don't take a single day for granted. Take delight in each light-filled hour, remembering that there will also be many dark days." Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 (MSG). God knows your days, light or dark. The place where you live—that's the place where He lives, too.

## Life becoming brighter

Getting older? Cheer up—you have an advantage. The advantage is that you can see your life today in more mature terms than in the past. You can see that God has been patient with your weaknesses. That helps you deal with weaknesses still to be revealed. Further, you can see that no problem has been too big for God your whole life long. Look what he's brought you through! Here's courage for the year: "Nothing between us and God, our faces shining with the brightness of his face. And so we are transfigured much like the Messiah, our lives gradually becoming brighter and more beautiful." 2 Corinthians 3:18 (MSG).

## Life in the good and the bad

When we watch the behavior of a baby, we're seeing transparency. Is the baby happy? We know it. Sad? We know it. Playful? We know it. Mad? You get the picture. As adults, we have similar changeability. Happy, sad. Up, down. Positive, negative. But we don't have the same transparency. We cover, we hide, we camouflage. But when our lives are lived in God, we can be the child, because he is our Father. We can be transparent, bringing to God every hope, trial and emotion. "On a good day, enjoy yourself; on a bad day, examine your conscience. God arranges for both kinds of days so that we won't take anything for granted." Ecclesiastes 7:14 (MSG).

## Life as an offering

Think about a fish in a fishbowl, or a bird in a cage. How much does the fish or the bird know about the outside? Our own lives can become small, confined. A little round of duties and habits. But God has prepared something better. He gives us life that's bigger, better, and glorious. "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10 (NIV). For today, are you receiving this full life from Jesus? Here's what you can do to make it real: "Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life—and place it before God as an offering." Romans 12:1 (MSG). It's an offering God transforms, for your joy.