

The Gospel According to James (Taylor)

The Secret of Life

Live in the present

(Matthew 27:38) Two criminals were crucified with him, their crosses on either side of his.

We live between two thieves, the past and the future.

We can live in the present, free from the past, through forgiveness.

(Jeremiah 31:34b) I'll wipe the slate clean for each of them. I'll forget they ever sinned!"

(Hebrews 12:15) See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

We can live in the present, free from the future, through faith.

(Matthew 6:3-33) So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Live in the presence

Feast in the presence of your enemies.

(Psalm 23:5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

(John 16:33) "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Rejoice in the presence of the true and living God.

(Psalm 139:7) Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

(Zephaniah 3:17) The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

Live in God's purpose.

In God's purpose, your burdens become something beautiful.

(Revelation 21:21a) The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl.

In God's purpose, you live abundantly in spite of your pain.

(Nehemiah 8:10b) Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.