

Abundant Life

1. Jesus told us in John 10:10: ***“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*** Who is this thief Jesus is speaking of? He is speaking of Satan. The only desire and goal of Satan is to steal from God's people, to literally kill them, if given any chance to do so at all. His desire is to destroy every person's life that he possibly can; physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally, or in any way he can get a halfway chance; and to make every individual feel hopeless, useless, and with no possibility of accomplishing anything whatsoever in this life.

A. Jesus came that we might have life. This word comes from several Greek and Hebrew words, which mean to live, to eat food, to maintain (the body and the soul), and to continue having breath.

B. And that we might have it more abundantly. Greek-perisseuo (per-is-syoo-o): speaking of quality as well as quantity; to be excessive and beneficial (to oneself, to others, and most of all to the cause of Christ); to the highest degree or by the highest standards.

C. Jesus is not only talking of a life that is long, but of life with the greatest benefits; life with the ability to enjoy the greatest assets which God has to offer. Not to only be able to live, but to be able to live in happiness and joy in every area of one's life. He is talking of a life which is far superior to all those who refuse to follow Him; but rather choose to be cheated and deceived by the thief; Satan. Jesus is speaking of a life which is plentiful in every way. The greatest abundance which a person can enjoy in this life, is the knowledge of Jesus Christ as one's Savior, Lord, Healer, Deliverer, and Provider.

D. God told us in Psalms 130:7: “Let Israel hope in the Lord: for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption.” What does He mean by plenteous redemption? Hebrew-rabah (raw-baw): increasing (in blessings), enlarged, continued, growing (continually), heaping greater, multiplied nourishment (spiritual, mental, physical), greater in every way; redemption which is far greater than anything which mankind can ever even imagine, and most certainly far ahead of anything which Satan may ever have to offer.

2. All that God gives unto us, He gives in an abundant portion. We will list some of the great blessings which God gives unto us.

A. Grace. We read in 1 Tim. 1:14: “And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.” The word grace comes from the Greek word pharis (khar-ece); which means divine influence upon the heart, gratitude, beneficial favor, liberality, or acceptance (to God). Rom. 5:20 tells us: “Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound.”

Peter told us, in 1 Pet. 1:3: “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

B. Mercy. Psalm 86:5 says: “For thou, Lord, art good and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.” The word mercy comes from Hebrew word checed (keh-sed); which means kindness, piety, favor, or reproof. We also read in Psalms 108:3-4: “I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds.” Joel also told us in Joel 2:13: “And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of all evil.”

C. Goodness and Truth. We read in Exodus 34:6: “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth.” God most certainly is a good God, all the time. And we read in another scripture that his truth endureth unto all generations.

D. Love. God is love. 1 John 4:8 tells us: “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

The main reason why Jesus Christ came to the earth was because God loved the world. John 3:16 tells us: ***“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever***

believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” This is speaking of the inhabitants of the world, the people; not the material world itself. God loves every individual who has ever been born; regardless of whether or not they have ever accepted his love. We read in Eph. 3:19: “And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” What does this mean? The word *passeth* comes from the Greek word *huperballo* (hoop-er-bal-lo); which means beyond the usual point, super eminent, to exceed, superior to (mankind's knowledge), or to go to a much higher decree (than mankind's understanding). God is telling us that the love of Christ is a far greater love than can ever be contained in the field of knowledge of mankind. Our human brain is not capable of having a full understanding of it.

3. Abundant life also includes:

A. *Forgiveness of sin.* Eph. 1:3-7 tells us: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved.”

B. *Becoming a new creature.* 2 Cor. 5:17 tells us: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a *new creature*: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Greek-*kainos* (kahee-mps): fresh or newly developed; speaking of new in every way; having a new heart that is full of God's love, and a new mind; the mind of Christ. 1 Cor. 2:16 tells us: “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that He may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.” This simply means that when we become a new creature in Christ, that we will begin to think as He thinks. This scripture is speaking of one with new, righteous thoughts, as Christ Himself has; one with a new, reborn spirit. It is also speaking of someone who has completely new desires, thoughts, and goals in life. Phil. 2:5 tells us: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”

C. *Receiving the Holy Spirit.* Romans 8:9 tells us: “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” When we receive the abundant life which Jesus has provided for us, our bodies become temples of God's Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 3:16 tells us: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” We also read in 2 Cor. 6:16: “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” We will also begin to bear the fruit of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22-23 tells us: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

D. *Having an eternal intercessor to our Heavenly Father.* We read in Rom. 8:26-27: “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” And verse 34 of this same chapter tells us: “Who is He that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” Heb. 7:25 also tells us: “Wherefore He is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

E. *Divine physical healing.* Matt. 8:16-17 tells us: “When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.” This Word tells us that Jesus healed *all* that were sick. This means everyone who had a need for healing. It also tells us that Jesus took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses. It makes no sense for us to have to bare sicknesses, if Jesus has already bore them for us. His reason for bearing them was so that we would not have to. This great blessing was also prophesied by Isaiah. He told us in Isa. 53:4-5: “Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Peter also recognized Jesus as our great healer. According to him, this has already been accomplished. He told us in 1 Pet. 2:24: “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” Jesus bore the stripes on his back, as part of the horrible process which He had to go through; along with his death on the cross. But then He

arose from the dead, and through the Atonement, we now have healing for our souls, our bodies, our minds, and our spirits. It was not the stripes alone, which brought us our complete healing, but the whole Atonement process. All we must do, as children of God, is to accept our healing by faith.

F. Having every need provided. Psalm 23:1 tells us: “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Phil. 4:19 also tells us: “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” When we become children of God, the Lord Jesus will be a shepherd to us, and will always be by our side; always watching out for us and always caring for us. And as long as God’s children are obedient to Him, and give as He leads us to give, then He will always supply our every need; regardless of how large or small it may be.

G. Given all power and authority over Satan and over his kingdom. Luke 10:18-19 tells us: “And He said unto them, ***I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.***” No weapon which Satan or his demons shall ever attempt to use against the children of God, shall ever be to any avail. Isa. 54:17 tells us: “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”

H. Everlasting life in Heaven. As we read on page 2, John 3:16 tells us, that whosoever believes in Jesus Christ, shall have everlasting life. We also read in John 6:40: “***And this is the will of Him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.***”

Conclusion:

Jesus fully intended for us to have life far more abundantly, than most of us ever see or experience. Usually, our reason for failing to experience this abundant life, is because we are ignorant of what God’s Word says; or we do not believe it applies to us. Any promise which God has ever made, He has made the promise to every one of his children. We know this for certain, for we are told in Acts 10:34: “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” Satan has blinded the minds and the eyes of many of God’s people; and those eyes usually remain blind, because those people fail to ever get into the Word of God; and therefore, they never find out what God’s perfect will really is for their lives. But those in this condition do have a choice.

They can remain ignorant of God’s goodness, and of the abundant life which He has provided for them, or they can go to the Word of God, with an open mind, and allow the Holy Spirit to open their eyes to the truth; that will guide them to a more blessed, more abundant life, than they ever imagined possible. How about you? Are you living an abundant life? Are you walking in the grace and the mercy of God? Do you feel his goodness, truth, and his love? Have you accepted his forgiveness for your sins, and become a new creature in Christ Jesus? Is the Holy Spirit guiding the steps which you are taking in life? Is the fruit of the Spirit being seen in your life? Have you received the divine healing, which Jesus provided for you, or are you continually walking in sickness and disease? Are your needs provided, or are you living in poverty? Who has the victory in your life; you or Satan? Do you have everlasting life in Heaven? Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior? If you could not answer every one of these questions with a yes, then you need to turn fully unto Jesus today; and allow Him to show you the way to abundant life.

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