

Disc 102 - Abundant Life in Jesus Christ - Jn 10:10

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It's the 2<sup>nd</sup> Msg in our Discipleship 100 series  
& it is the LAST msg of the year - 2008 - *(they go well together)*

I wonder if we can just take a minute  
& look back over this past year

Even for those listening NOT at the end of the yr  
you can look back over the past year at any time

so let me ask you the most  
"All Encompassing" "Eternally Significant" question  
that can be asked in reflection of your life

***"Do you Know Jesus better today than you did 1 year ago?"***

***"Are you walking closer with Him?"***

***"Are you responding more naturally to His voice?"***

Of all the things we THINK we need

THIS is the most all-encompassing - life changing  
NEED that there is, really!

now, many would be quick to say  
*"oh no, I've got way bigger needs than that !"*

***REALLY? . . . That's NOT what the Bible says***

I know that many of us have very real, & very difficult  
TEMPORARY NEEDS

I'm NOT saying to ignore those Difficult Temporary Needs

& the **Bible doesn't** really **say** to **IGNORE** those Temporary Needs

But I **PROMISE** you - If you would have allowed Jesus Christ to truly **Transform** your life during this past year

**That transformation** of your life would have effected **EVERY** Temporary need you have

God specifically **PROMISES** if we will Seek **FIRST** (in priority) the *Kingdom of God*

then all our other **NEEDS** will be met as well

### **Mat 6:33 - NLT**

***33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.***

Unfortunately - it doesn't say **WANT** - it says **NEED**

This Vs is about the **PRIORITY** of *Seeking of the Kingdom of God* first - & **trusting God** w/ the rest

& it is the most important **REFLECTION** we could ever make

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One of my favorite **DC Talk** songs is "**Day by Day**" - (*didn't write it*)

The words **capture my prayer** for both the congregation here & the congregation at large **thru W-B-M**

**I live a simple life, I take a day at a time  
I spend my mornings with God before I hit the grind  
The subtleties of darkness never cease to amaze  
As a physical world creates a spiritual haze**

Blinded by distractions  
Lost in matter-less affairs  
Reaching through the darkness  
Trusting You will meet me there

Day by day, dear Lord, Three things I pray  
To see thee more clearly  
To love thee more dearly  
To follow thee more nearly . . . day by day

As you look back on this past year  
I pray THAT has been your heart's desire

& (whether it has been or not) - LET'S pray that would be  
our heart's desire for the coming year

## Let's Pray

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Again - The title of our msg today is;  
**"Abundant Life in Jesus Christ"**

& this msg follows Lesson # 2  
from **The Discipleship Workbook**

from "**Family Discipleship Ministries**" which can be downloaded  
on the Word-By-Mail website (at **wordbymail.COM**)

there's also a link there to **Family Discipleship Ministries**  
which I strongly encourage you to check out

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The **Bible teaches** that - as **believers** in Jesus Christ we have been given a **New & Abundant** Life

### **Jn 10:10 - ESV**

***10 The thief (the god of this world) comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.***

This is **the abundant life** I pray each of us would commit to "**Walk In**" - Day by Day

But **in order to** do that - we must place our lives completely in God's Hands - **DAILY**

We must choose **DAILY** to crucify our Independent & Self-Willed "**Sin Nature**"

& instead - We must **choose** to Walk in ***Constant Fellowship with God***

& if we WILL - then we can be confident;  
**God Will Be With Us**  
He will **Lead**, **Guide**, **Protect**, & **Provide**

& **THEN** we really will be LIVING - **The Abundant Life**

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But **what** does that really even **MEAN** - **The Abundant Life**

Maybe part of our **frustration** - - is a Mis-understanding,  
or a WRONG-DEFINITION of the Phrase **The Abundant Life**

So maybe we need to start - by looking at the **Original Abundant Life** - God gave man

In the beginning - **God created** the Heavens & the Earth,  
He created Man & Woman

& then He created the **Original Abundant Life** for them  
in the Garden of Eden

It was a **perfect environment**, where God gave Adam & Eve  
a happy, abundant, fruitful, & satisfying, life

But **THINK** for a second  
*what was the KEY to this original Abundant Life?*

**The KEY to the Original Abundant Life  
was Unbroken Fellowship with God**

(Think about it) - The **KEY** to the Original Abundant Life  
was **Unbroken Fellowship with God**

& **in order** for Adam & Eve to be able to **experience**  
that unbroken fellowship with God

God gave Adam a **COMMAND**  
meant to **protect** his Abundant Life with God

**Gen 2:16-17 - ESV**

***16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,  
17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."***

**Simple enough** - Obey God, Live an Abundant & Eternal Life

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But what happened next ?

That Abundant Life was thrown away by Man's Sin,  
with some help from the Devil

Satan (the Thief) came to Steal Kill & Destroy (*Jn 10:10*)

In GEN Ch 3 Satan;

QUESTIONED God's Word  
(V.1 - *Did God actually say . . .*)

DENIED God's Word  
(V.4 - *You will not surely die . . .*)

REPLACED God's Word  
(V.5 - *You will be like God . . .*)

& Adam & Eve fell for it, just like we do today

& what was the RESULT of the Fall ?

Their Fellowship with God was BROKEN  
& their Abundant Life was FORFEITED

Mankind was now LOST  
with no means to Recover his Fellowship with God

Rom 5:12 - ESV

***12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man,  
and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all  
sinned***

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Mankind was **LOST**  
with **no means** to recover his Fellowship with God

**BUT - - GOD !!** - *But God made a way*

**John Piper;**

The wisdom of God has ordained a way  
for the love of God to deliver us  
from the wrath of God  
without compromising the justice of God

God Himself, **made a way** to restore The Abundant Life  
He originally created for man

Here's how **Rom Ch 5** puts it

**Rom 5:15-16 - NLT**

***15 . . . For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.***

***16 . . . For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.***

**because** there was **no way** we could never do it  
God made a way for our **Fellowship** to be restored

& **thereby** - to make the Abundant Life **available** to us again

& remember - the **KEY** to the Original Abundant Life  
was **Unbroken Fellowship with God**

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## **SO - what's the PROCESS ?**

How do we go FROM "**Broken Fellowship**" with God  
leading to **DEATH**

TO "**Unbroken Fellowship**" with God  
leading to **LIFE**

Well - **first** - we've got to be **BORN AGAIN**

We were **born once** - into Sin  
& now we've got to be "**Born Again**" - into Righteousness

### **In Jn 3:3 Jesus said - ESV**

***3 . . . Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.***

& then **Nicodemus** (*the Religious Leader Jesus was talking to*)  
asks the question in

### **Jn 3:9 - ESV**

***9 . . . How can these things be?***

to which **Jesus answered** in

### **Jn 3:16 - ESV**

***16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.***



When we **Believe** in Jesus Christ (*put our faith in Him*)  
we are **Born-Again** to Eternal Life

& God is **able** to do this - because  
**BY OUR FAITH** in Jesus Christ - God **JUSTIFIES US**

**Justified** means - **to be declared righteous**  
we like to say - "*just if I'd - never sinned*"

### **Rom 3:22 - NLT**

***22 We are made right with God (justified) by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.***

**The Pathway** to the Abundant Life - begins by  
**Being Made Right** with God - **Thru Faith in Jesus Christ**

God **JUSTIFIES** us thru Faith  
Which **restores our fellowship** with God

**AND** - gives us **eternal life**

### **In Jn 11:25-26 Jesus said - ESV**

***25 . . . I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,  
26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. . .***

**SO - We are Born Again (by our faith in Jesus Christ)**  
which **Justifies** us before God  
& gives us **Eternal Life**

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**But Is there more than that - to having "Abundant Life"? . . . YES!**

Remember - **the KEY to the Abundant Life**  
**is Unbroken Fellowship with God**

In the **Original Abundant Life** - Adam Fellowshiped with God  
in a close intimate relationship

& **Now** - because of Jesus Christ  
we **can again** have a close intimate relationship with God

& there's **no greater relationship** God can **offer** us  
than to **ADOPT US** as His own sons & daughters

**Jn 1:12 - ESV**

***12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,***

You & I have the right, to become **adopted children** of God  
- & ***not only that***

But we **Receive the right** to call the **Almighty God**  
**ABBA FATHER** - the most intimate name for "**Father**"

**Rom 8:15(b) - ESV**

***15 . . . , but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"***

Incredible - Miraculous - Indescribable -

**is the love** that the Father has given to us - (*to address Him as Abba*)

**1Jn 3:1 - ESV**

***1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.***

& **1Jn Ch3** goes on to say - that when Christ appears again,  
We will actually **Be Like Him**

& not only will we **Be Like Him**  
But we are actually **Joint-Heirs** with Christ

### **Rom 8:16-17 - ESV**

***16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,***

***17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, . . .***

It is **mindboggling** to consider all that it means  
that **thru our faith in Christ** - we have become **Children of God**

But at the **CORE** of us being **sons & daughters of God**

**is the fact** - that we can once again have  
**Unbroken Fellowship with God**

Which is - - - ***The Key to Abundant Life***

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### **So let's review**

The **KEY** to the **Original Abundant Life**  
was **Unbroken Fellowship** with God

The **KEY** to our **Abundant Life in Christ**  
is **Unbroken Fellowship** with God

Now - **WHAT** could **get** in the way of that ??  
the **same thing** that got in the way **originally**

Back in Gen Ch 3

Satan's plan to destroy Adam & Eve's Abundant Life,  
was to **BREAK** their fellowship with God

**& what** do you think Satan's plan would be today  
in regard to your Abundant Life in Christ ??

Satan's plan to destroy your Abundant Life  
is the same as it was back in the Garden of Eden

His plan is to **BREAK** your Fellowship with God

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**You have an Enemy !!**

If you are currently Rejecting Jesus Christ  
then your enemy *is winning*,  
& so he's probably not bothering you much

**However** - if you are Desiring the Abundant Life in Christ  
meaning - ***Unbroken Fellowship with God***

then you have an enemy that is **ACTIVELY**  
trying to destroy your Abundant life  
just like he did in the Garden

in 2Cor 11:3 - Paul warns the Corinthian church

**2Cor 11:3 - NLT**

***3 But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent.***

Satan's tactics haven't changed

He will tempt you, & deceive you - just like he did in the garden

& his goal is still the same  
**BREAK** your Fellowship with God

**Whether its thru**

the lust of your **EYES**  
the lust of this **WORLD**  
the **PRIDE** of life

your enemy's **GOAL** - is to **BREAK**  
your **Intimate Fellowship** with God

Because He knows - **THAT** is the **KEY**  
to your **Abundant Life in Christ**

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**But Praise God!!**

Because **God** has already **provided** for our **VICTORY**  
even before the enemy's first attack

There are **MANY** vs's about our **guaranteed victory** in Christ

But let me **use one** that actually shows the **PROCESS**  
we must take - to experience that victory

**Jas 4:7-8 - ESV**

**7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

**8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. . .**

This is actually - the guaranteed **Victory plan**

**Submit to God - Resist the Devil - Draw near to God**  
& God has already guaranteed your victory

The Devil is **NOT** an equal power to God  
he is a created being that still **must answer** to God

& God has **promised** us - thru-out the Bible  
if we will **RESIST** the Devil (turn from him), & **turn TO** God

that we **WILL** be victorious in every Spiritual Battle

& that **VICTORY** means  
that our **Fellowship with God** is Protected

& that **Unbroken Fellowship** with God - is the **KEY** to what ?  
(to the ***Abundant Life in Christ***)

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OK - we've been talking about the **PROCESS**  
of ***Living the Abundant Life***

& we've **very simply** said;

**#1) We must be Born Again** - thru Faith in Jesus Christ

Which makes us Right before God,  
Gives us Eternal Life  
& Restores our Fellowship with God

**#2) This makes us "Children of God"**

& we become Joint-heirs with Christ - ***but more importantly***  
we now come to God - as our **Abba Father**

The **Hindrances** to our Fellowship with God  
have been removed

But **instead** of Rejoicing - Are we **adding** our own Hindrances

Guys - We MUST Truly Understand

## **The Abundant Life is a life of Unbroken Fellowship with God**

In a way - like it originally was in the Garden

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I've done a couple little surveys on  
**WHAT IS THE ABUNDANT LIFE**

I've asked a few Christians - Who really got it RIGHT  
I've also searched the Internet - Which really got it WRONG

But if we were to ask a dozen Church-Going Christians  
to DEFINE the Abundant Life

MANY of them - would have the common misunderstanding

that somehow the Abundant life  
has to do - with something that MONEY can buy

Which is a very sad (& very common) misunderstanding

It's sad - because that means  
only people with money can live The Abundant Life

Which means that ABSOLUTELY NONE of Jesus' Disciples  
ever lived the Abundant Life

Because NONE of them ever had anything Money could buy

Yet - certainly - Apostle **Paul** - **John** the Beloved - **Peter** - **James**,  
& the others - **experienced** the *Abundant Life* Jesus came to give

Because Guys - *The Abundant Life* is **NOT** Material in ANY way

The Abundant Life **NOW** - is a "**taste**", a "**down payment**"  
of what **Heaven** will be like

& **Heaven** is the ultimate . . . **Unbroken Fellowship With God**

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I promise you - **The Abundant Life** - **IS** - (or flows from)  
*Unbroken Fellowship with God*

which **involves** every single **area** of your life  
& it involves many "**specifics**" or "**details**"

But **let's start** with the basics today

**FELLOWSHIP** means - *companionship, relationship, union,  
habitual sharing, and giving & receiving.*

**THAT is fellowship with God !**

Companionship - Relationship - Union  
Habitual Sharing - Giving & Receiving

**THAT is Fellowship with God!**

& **I Promise You** - **THAT** is *The Source of The Abundant Life*

**anything else** you could **classify** as the Abundant Life  
will **COME THRU** your *Unbroken Fellowship with God*

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**To close** - let's list the **BASICS** - for **DAILY Fellowship** with God  
*which means* - - the Basics for **The Abundant Life**

### **#1) DAILY PRAYER**

We've got to **PRAY** - *daily, regularly, w/o ceasing*

Prayer is the **2-way** intimate **communion** with God  
& we've got to **develop** a consistent prayer life

### **#2) DAILY WORSHIP**

We've got to Chose to **WORSHIP** God - **EVERY** Day

**Worship** causes you to **focus** on God (instead of *yourself*)

I'd really encourage you to **Listen** to Worship Music

I'd also Meditating on the **Psalms** - & *writing thoughts* of Worship

### **#3) DAILY WORD**

We've got to read **God's Love Letter** to us Every day

**Read** a section *slowly, & carefully,*

*listening* for God to speak thru His Living Word

& again - I encourage you to **WRITE** what He speaks to you

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I hope **to develop** these three **Daily Disciplines**  
as we continue in this series

& then finally - to add to your **Daily Fellowship** with God - we have

**Discipleship** - to *SUPPORT* our fellowship with God

**Evangelism** - to *SHARE* our fellowship with God

But **FIRST** - we have **GOT** to **ACCESS**  
The Abundant Life in Christ

thru our DAILY, UNBROKEN, **FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD**

**Let's Pray**