

The Abundant Life Session 1 – Understanding the Abundant Life

John 10:10 (KJV) – *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*

I. Introduction to the Text

A. The revelation of the contrast that exist between God and Satan

1. Satan's nature and mission is to steal, kill and destroy
2. God's nature and mission is to give life – the abundant life.
3. Never confuse the two.

B. Abundant Life

1. Life in abundance
2. **John 10:10 (AMPC)** – *The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in **abundance (to the full, till it overflows)**.*
3. **This definition would be in contrast to what many churches teach**
 - a. Poverty can be a blessing from God
 - b. God might want you to be sick
 - c. The bible doesn't teach prosperity in any form
4. **In this series we will examine the biblical understanding of the abundant life that Jesus is speaking of.**
5. **In this series we will kill the sacred cows of religion and tradition that have kept people from receiving the life that God intended for them to have.**
6. **Why teach on this subject?**
 - a. **Hosea 4:6 (KJV)** – *My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge*
 - b. I spent many years in a church where 80% of all sermons were for the unsaved
 - c. Many churches do not teach/but preach – Inspiration with no understanding
 - d. You cannot receive what you do not know is yours to have.
 - e. The early church spent time searching the scriptures to understand what Jesus provided for them.

- f. The Epistles are letters to the church that primarily deal with what we have in Christ – What is available to us now through the new covenant.

Paul's prayers for the churches were always that they might KNOW more about what was available to them in Christ.

We have received much inspiration!

We need more information!

C. The God of the Abundant Life

1. **Genesis 17:1 (KJV)** – *And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*

- a. Almighty God = El Shaddai – The all sufficient one – The God who is more than enough!
- b. He is not the God of enough – More than enough
- c. He is not the God of just barely enough to get you through
More than enough
- d. He is not the God of sometimes enough or enough is he chooses to be – No! – At all times he is always MORE THAN ENOUGH!
- e. This is who He is – El-Shaddai – Always!
- f. And Always more than enough – Always everything I need, but MORE!
- g. God will always be attached to ABUNDANCE – The Abundant Life
- h. God is never connected to LACK – Life under the curse
- i. We must understand this, or the abundant life will never be ours.
Satan will take advantage of our lack of understanding or religious/ traditional doctrine and use it to keep us from the Abundant life that God has intended for us to possess.

2. **God's plan for Abraham's life – Exceeding more than enough dream**
(A dream that is so big that you will have to have a more than enough God to pull it off!)

Genesis 13:14-17 (KJV) – ¹⁴*And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: ¹⁵For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give*

it, and to thy seed for ever. ¹⁶And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. ¹⁷Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee

- a. Notice – God has big plans for Abraham
- b. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)** – *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
God's plans are always good, big, filled with hope and include a good future – include abundance*
- c. God's plans are always so great – you must have HIM to pull it off
If you don't believe in the God of the abundant life – you cant possess the abundant life – If you don't believe in the God of Abundance – You will never see the fullness of you big dreams of abundance
- d. God gives Abraham a big dream/assignment that is TOO MUCH
Genesis 13
- e. In Genesis 17 – God shows up to remind Abraham, I am El Shaddai, The God who is more than enough – who is more than able to bring your BIG dreams to pass.
- f. It is not enough to have the big dream – you must have a revelation of a BIG GOD – who is more than enough – The God of the abundant life!

D. Scriptures on the Abundant Life to Consider

God has much to say about abundance

1. Deuteronomy 28:47-48 (KJV) – *⁴⁷Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; ⁴⁸Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.*

- a. While this passage is from the *Curse List*, it Unfill that the blessing of God and intention of God for His people was that they have the abundance of all things.
- b. The blessing included the abundance of all things – while the curse took all things away – poverty and lack

Poverty always manifest on three levels

1. Lack – Total deficient
 2. Scarcity – limited supply
 3. Unfulfilled desires – Not being able to enjoy your desires
- c. This passage reveals God’s intention for His covenant people to be blessed with all things in abundance – The opposite of poverty!
- d. PERSONAL DECLARATION; *Abundance is the will of God for my life!*

2. God’s Nature is More than Enough

Notice the **Superlatives** used in scripture to describe how God does things. (Superlative = an adjective use at the highest extent or degree.) The superlative form of an adjective indicates that something has more of quality than anything else in a group.

- a. **Psalm 68:19 (KJV)** – Blessed be the LORD, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation
Everyday a blessing day
- b. **Malachi 3:10 (KJV)** – Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it
- c. **Luke 6:38 (KJV)** – Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.
- d. **2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NKJV)** – ⁶But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows ^[a]bountifully will also reap ^[b]bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of ^[c]necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.
- e. **Ephesians 3:20 (KJV)** – Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

- f. The Holy Spirit spoke with the most descriptive language to declare to us the over and above extreme quality and person of our God! He is never average!

II. Closing Remarks

A. Examples of those who lived in the abundance of God – Knowing a God who is always more than enough

1. Abraham – **Genesis 13:2 (KJV)** – *And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*
2. Isaac – **Genesis 26:12 (KJV)** – *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.*
3. Jacob – **Genesis 30:43 (KJV)** – *And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.*
4. PAUL – **Philippians 4:11-13 (NIV)** – *¹¹I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹²I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

Don't stop reading with this passage – go on to vs 18-19

Philippians 4:18-19 (NIV) – *¹⁸I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.*

- a. Paul says, the God who is more than enough, the God of abundance has supplied me with MORE THAN ENOUGH
- b. This same God of Abundance will supply/meet all of your needs according to his riches in Glory!

- c. He is always MORE THAN ENOUGH!
- d. Jesus, the absolute and complete expression of the Father –
More than Enough
 - More than enough fish and loaves
 - More than enough fish for Peter
 - More than enough healing for everyone
 - More than enough grace and forgiveness
- e. This is the ABUNDANT LIFE – It is for YOU!
His quality of Life
His abundance of Life
We must understand what this means to us
We must know how to embrace this abundant life to participate in it.