

# The Abundant Life!

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Foundation scripture

**John 10:10 (NKJV)** I came that they might have life, and have it more abundantly.”

As a starting point to experience the Abundant Life we need to

- A) Be a believer – that is Born Again (John 3:7)
- B) Be speaking Life over ourselves and others (Proverbs 18:21)
- C) Avoid self centreness (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

## **1. We must abide in Jesus to live the Abundant Life**

For life to be abundant, it must have abundant resources, and the only unlimited source of life is in the person Jesus Christ, the son of God.

**John 14:6 (NIV)** Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

To possess this fuller life, we as believers must abide in Him.

**John 15:1-5 (NIV)** “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. **If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.**”

If you do not have abundant life within you, you will soon yield to the carnal (fleshly) life around you

**1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (NKJV)** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to **carnal**, as to babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even

now you are still not able; <sup>3</sup>for you are still **carnal**. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not **carnal** and behaving like mere men? <sup>4</sup>For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not **carnal**?"

The carnal life is circumstance-controlled; the abundant life is Holy Spirit-controlled. The carnal Christian life leads to defeat; the abundant life leads to victory in Christ.

### **Definition of Carnality**

Carnality refers to the state of being carnal, which is characterized by a preoccupation with, or indulgence in, the flesh and its desires, particularly sexual desires. It can also describe the quality or state of being merely temporal or worldly, lacking spiritual vitality.

Thoughts - Words - Actions

We need to be ruthless in and on what we think about.

And God has given us scripture and the weapons to deal with this

**2 Corinthians 10:15 (NIV)** We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

## **2. The Abundant Life is a Yielded Life**

**Romans 6:10-13 (NKJV)** For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. <sup>11</sup>Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts. <sup>13</sup>And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."

**Colossians 3:1-4 (NIV)** Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your minds on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

The abundant life begins when you yield to Him, allowing Him to live His life through you by faith.

Make a decision not to be controlled by circumstances

### **3. The Abundant Life is a Service Life**

Jesus Came to Serve and set the ultimate example of service and sacrifice when He condescended to us and submitted to death on our behalf. Likewise, we are called to humbly serve others.

**Philippians 2:3–8 (NIV)** Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!”

**Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

To live abundantly, we must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself became our example. He served all the way to Calvary, and there He was the obedient servant,” ...obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:7, 8). In the Romans 12:1-2 we as believers are urged to take the necessary steps for abundant living.

### **4. The Abundant Life is a Spirit Filled Life**

**Ephesians 5:18-20 (NIV)** Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup>always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We are filled with the Spirit:

- that we might have joy (Eph. 5:19, 20)
- for service (Acts 6:3 and Acts 11:22-24)
- for power to be a witness (Acts 1:8 and Acts 2:4-7)
- for the hour of persecution (Acts 7:54-60)
- That we may “walk by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-26)
- that we may be led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14).

How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?

- we must desire Him to fill us
- we must ask Him to fill us
- we must believe that He does fill us (John 4:14 and John 7:37-38)
- with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Mark 16:17)

## **5. The Abundant Life is a Mature Life**

2 Pet. 3:18 **(NIV)** but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**1 Corinthians 3:1 (NKJV)** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, **as to babes in Christ.**”

**1 John 2:12-13 (NKJV)** I write to you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for His name’s sake. <sup>13</sup>I write to you, **fathers**, because you have known Him *who is* from the beginning. I write to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the wicked one. I write to you, **little children**, because you have known the Father.”

4 stages of maturity

- a) The baby stage (1 Cor. 3:1-4)
- b) The little child stage (1 John 2:12)
- c) The young man / woman stage (1 John 2:13)
- d) The father / mother stage (1 John 2:13)