

The Abundant Life

I. THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A YIELDED LIFE

...Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God...Romans 6:10-13

How to live the abundant life is no secret: it is revealed in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. "...In that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God" (verse 10). Faith that saves identifies you with Christ in His death - this is eternal life. Faith that yields identifies you with Christ in His resurrection - this is abundant life (Col. 3:1-4).

1. It is one thing to have eternal life by faith. It is quite another thing to have abundant life by faith.
2. It is one thing for you to be "made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Cor. 5:21); it is another thing for you to realize His righteous life is in you (1 John 3:7).
3. It is one thing for you to live in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); it is another thing for Christ to live His life through you (Col. 1:27).

You have a choice. You may yield unto God by faith and enjoy abundant life, or you may yield unto sin and endure a defeated life (Rev. 3:1). God would have you "know the power of a yielded life; it will lift you above circumstances that circumvent abundant living. The abundant life begins when you yield to Him to live His life through you by faith.

II. THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A SERVICE LIFE

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1,2

To live abundantly, you 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 unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:7,8).

1. You are to "present." This is a voluntary surrender to the perfect will of God, even though you may not know God's perfect will for your life; it is, on your part, an act of faith (John 7:17).
2. You are to "present your bodies." God must control and use the whole person. "I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of Jesus Christ." Your whole person was redeemed on the cross and sanctified (set apart for service) (1 Thess. 5:23).
3. You are to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice." This exemplified in the life of the Apostle Paul; he was a "living sacrifice." In life, he was a "servant of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:1). In battle, he was a warrior (Eph. 6:10-18). In the will of God, he was a "prisoner of Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:1). These words were spoken from a Roman prison; he never referred to himself as a prisoner of Rome. To the Apostle, prison was a part of the perfect will of God. With this conviction, he lived abundantly (Phil. 1:12). In death, he was victorious (1 Tim. 4:7,8).

You have been "transformed - changed by the power of God, and no longer "conformed to this world"; but now you can be conformed to the "perfect will of God" - and live abundantly!

III. THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A SEPARATED LIFE

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God. Romans 1:1

Separation is both positive and negative. You are to be "separated unto the gospel of God" - this is positive. You are to come out of anything that is contrary to the perfect will of God (2 Cor. 6:17) - this is negative.

1. The Word of God has the power to separate you from sin (Ps. 119:11).
2. God the Father has the power to separate you unto the "coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23).
3. God the Son has the power to separate you unto righteousness, "not having spot, or wrinkle" (Eph. 5:24-27).
4. God the Holy Spirit has the power to separate you unto salvation and service (1 Thess. 2:13).

The abundant life is made possible by the death burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and made a reality by being separated unto Him.

IV. THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18-20

The Holy Spirit indwells every believer. The abundant life is not found in environment or circumstances, or in the things you may possess. It is found in the infilling of the Holy Spirit. "Be filled with the Spirit" is a command. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be Spirit-possessed, Spirit-empowered, Spirit-led and Spirit-controlled. (Acts 8:26-40)

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

V. THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A MATURE LIFE

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. 2 Peter 3:18

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord. 2 Peter 1:3

1. Add to your faith virtue (2 Peter 1:5).
2. And to virtue knowledge (2 Peter 1:5).
3. And to knowledge temperance (2 Peter 1:6).
4. And to temperance patience (2 Peter 1:6).
5. And to patience godliness (2 Peter 1:6).
6. And to godliness brotherly kindness (2 Peter 1:7).
7. And to brotherly kindness love (2 Peter 1:7).