

THE GOSPEL OF ABUNDANCE Week 2

John 10:10 *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* The message of the Gospel is one of abundance! Jesus came that we might have a rich, plentiful, dripping with honey, lush life! And yet the abundant life is not a life without pain or sorrow. The abundant life is not a guarantee of prosperity, although it can include that. Jesus' life is a model of the abundant life, and scripture tells us He was acquainted with grief. So, what is abundance?

Abundance is a life freed from being driven by your needs. It's not that we don't have needs or won't feel our needs. It's not that God doesn't care about our needs or meet our needs. It's that we do not need to be driven by our needs; our need for acceptance, our need to be heard, our need to be right, our need to have things other people have, our need for success.

As believers we can still live under the worldly mindset that after all we are in control and responsible for the quality and outcome of our life. But a life that has surrendered to God has relinquished control and positioned themselves as dependent upon God, acknowledging their inability to meet all of their needs.

Living a life consumed by the need to meet all your needs is living in lack. A life of abundance is not centered around the drive to meet our needs, it's centered on Jesus. God's design was never for us to be motivated in life by a sense of need, consider Adam and Eve in the Garden where they had no felt need. God created us to be motivated by the wonder and beauty of God, the love of God, and secondly by the wonder and beauty in each other. A life living in the beauty and wonder of God, lives in the abundance of God, and is no longer dominated by their needs. They can still see their need, bring their need before God, and respond to God as He leads without being consumed by the need. Because in all things, present and to come, God in His wonder, beauty, and love is enough. We can depend on Him and be satisfied in Him no matter what the circumstance; that is abundance!

Abundance is contentment. Phil 4:12 *"I 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."* Abundance is knowing peace and joy in all circumstances. There is an abundance we have been brought into, that we can know, no matter what circumstances we walk through.

QUESTION: Consider Jesus' life. What are examples that come to mind of Jesus living from a place of abundance (contentment, not driven by own needs, dependent)?

QUESTION: Do you still believe you can meet all of your needs? How does that effect your life?

QUESTION: What is the overflow of someone's life when they live from a place of abundance?

QUESTION: Can you fully enjoy what you have in the moment if you are fearing the future, driven by the needs of tomorrow? Why or why not?

QUESTION: What does it look like to be motivated by the beauty and love of God towards you vs motivated by a need? Give an example using a real need in your life.

QUESTION: Focusing on meeting a need is a good thing when motivated rightly. What are examples of right and wrong motivations of focusing on a need?