

YOUR WONDERFUL ABUNDANT LIFE

GREETING

PRAYER

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Then sings my soul, My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art;
Then sings my soul, My Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.

JOY UNSPEAKABLE

Verse 1

I have found His grace is all complete
He supplieth ev'ry need
While I sit and learn at Jesus' feet
I am free yes free indeed

CHORUS

It is joy unspeakable and full of glory
Full of glory full of glory
It is joy unspeakable and full of glory
Oh, the half has never yet been told

Verse 2

**I have found the pleasure I once craved
It is joy and peace within
What a wondrous blessing I am saved
From the awful gulf of sin**

Verse 3

**I have found that hope so bright and clear
Living in the realm of grace
Oh, the Savior's presence is so near
I can see His smiling face**

Verse 4

**I have found the joy no tongue can tell
How its waves of glory roll
It is like a great o'erflowing well
Springing up within my soul**

SINCE JESUS CAME INTO MY HEART

Verse 1

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought

Since Jesus came into my heart

I have light in my soul for which long I had sought

Since Jesus came into my heart

Chorus 1

Since Jesus came into my heart

Since Jesus came into my heart

Floods of joy o'er my soul

Like the sea billows roll

Since Jesus came into my heart

Verse 2

I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray

Since Jesus came into my heart

And my sins which were many are all washed away

Since Jesus came into my heart

Verse 3

I'm possessed of a hope that is steadfast and sure

Since Jesus came into my heart

And no dark clouds of doubt now my pathway obscure

Since Jesus came into my heart

Verse 4

There's a light in the valley of death now for me

Since Jesus came into my heart

And the gates of the city beyond I can see

Since Jesus came into my heart

Verse 5

I shall go there to dwell in that city I know

Since Jesus came into my heart

And I'm happy so happy as onward I go

Since Jesus came into my heart

INTRODUCTION: I want you to take a moment and think about your abundant life. You do have one, don't you?

Does an abundant life mean that you can go to Macy's and buy anything in the store and still have plenty of money left over?

Does it mean you can walk into an automobile showroom and pick out the newest, shiniest, slickest, car and pay cash?

Does it mean you can travel anywhere you desire, dine at any restaurant you choose, take a cruise, ski at Vale, or buy a new Condo in the Bahamas?

If you were to ask a dozen people what an abundant life means to them you would get a range of answers - most focusing on money, privilege, material things, and easy living.

Church growth speaker and motivational guru **Ed Stetzer** said the following in a Christianity Today article about this very topic.

Abundant Life

“Abundant life is not about what we have. It’s not about what we get. It’s not about what we claim. **Ultimately, abundant life is about what we receive as a gift from the Lord and to live knowing we are stewards of the blessings of God.**

It’s not a sin to be rich (though it might be missing the point if we die rich). Furthermore, stewardship is not measure by what we have received, but by what we have given.

At the end of the day, perhaps that is how we know we have an abundant life—when we have shared our life with others. When we have enough of the blessings of God (mercy, peace, love, grace, wisdom, etc.) to share with our others, and then actually do it; that’s when we truly have abundant life.”

Jesus spoke a dynamic truth about how we need to see and understand true Abundant Living.

John 10:10 - ¹⁰ ***"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."***

The context of this scripture is the confrontation between Jesus and His Jewish antagonists when He was presenting Himself to be the Good Shepherd. The atmosphere became more tense as He explained that the Father had sent Him to give His life for the people so they could be delivered from sin; that He would die and rise again and go to the Father.

Finally, in exasperation and hate filled epithets they shouted out that Jesus was demon possessed and had lost His mind. In fact, verse #31 reveals that they picked up stones to hurl at Him. Their animus and contempt for Jesus was immeasurable.

The idea of Jesus bringing deliverance to people captivated by sin was unacceptable to the religious entities of His day. (Sadly, in reality, even in our day many religious bodies deny the saving power of the sacrifice of Jesus - the Shepherd giving His life for the sheep.)

Satan still inspires people to reject Jesus and live their life with false hope while he steals everything from them and marks them for destruction.

But, thankfully, God has a different plan for everyone who will trust in Him. **His plan assures eternal life in heaven as well as a victorious life here on this earth.**

**** I want you to think about the amazing life God has given you. It is a life of boundless possibilities, superior insights, and steadfast promises. In order to see that life, you have to look beyond the veil of your flesh and peer into the spiritual arena where you will learn that the fight of faith is always won by the overcoming Christian.**

The huge mistake Christians make is to believe that the promised Abundant Life is based on material things, earthly drama, and easy livin'.

It is true that the Lord will bless you with many kinds of blessings as you live out your life in the flesh. He may grant you financial success, position, and recognition by important people. But that is not the abundant life Jesus gives.

The heart of my sermon is found in the 10 verse. It succinctly postulates the vivid comparison between Jesus and His mission and Satan (the thief) and his mission.

Joyce Meyer

Jesus paid a tremendous price for us so we could have abundant life. He willingly took all of our sin on Himself and gave His life on the cross so we could be forgiven and have new life in Him.

Smith Wigglesworth

This blessed Book brings such life and health and peace, and such an abundance that we should never be poor anymore.

A. W. Tozer

"An infinite God can give all of Himself to each of His children. He does not distribute Himself that each may have a part, but to each one He gives all of Himself as fully as if there were no others."

Rick Ezell, in a sermon titled, "It's A Wonderful Life" began his message with the following question:

Introduction

How would you fill in the blank: Life is _____?

****Forrest Gump filled in the blank by saying: "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."**

****F. Scott Peck began his bestselling book, The Road Less Traveled, by writing, "Life is difficult."**

****Once, I went to a time-share sales meetings and the salesman in one last final effort to get me to sign the dotted**

line said, "Life is not a dress rehearsal, you only get to live it once."

****Others have described our existence by filling in the blank with: a rat race, a bowl of cherries, amino acids, a series of choices, a paycheck, the weekend, a party.**

I wonder how you would fill in the blank: Life Is _____?"

Remember, Jesus said John 10:10 - ¹⁰ ***"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."***

These were and are powerful words that Jesus spoke when He exposed the plans of your soul's enemy.

****The enemy wants to steal your life and all you possess.** He wants to steal your family, your love, your hope, your joy and your peace.

He uses every dirty trick in his dirty book of nefarious stratagems to trip you up, to make you doubt, and to destroy your faith.

He is not ashamed or embarrassed to do anything and everything he needs to do to trip you up. He will use any

willing person to help him carry out his thieving plot against you.

He will lie, deceive, obfuscate, bloviate, and misdirect and he won't feel badly for doing it.

Just as a human thief has no conscience and no sense of fairness, Satan will smugly take everything you have and laugh all the way back to his demonic war room.

But, listen to the promise of Jesus - *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

Jesus unequivocally promises to take back what the enemy has stolen and restore it to you in His Abundance. You have the power, through Him, to go after your family and treasures just as David did in his battle with the Amalekites in **1st Samuel chapter 30**. The Amalekites had burned the city of Ziglag to the ground and took all the women, the children, the animals and the treasures away. The Bible states that when David and his valiant men returned and saw the devastation, they all wept bitterly. But David strengthened himself in the Lord and God told him to go and recover everything that the enemy had stolen from him.

One minister wrote this: **"I have a message for all those who have fallen victims to Satan's vices: you are there and Satan has stolen your peace, he has stolen your children, your husband, wife, they are now his captives. They are in wrong**

places as captives, slaves of alcohol, slaves of drugs, slaves of immorality, slaves of any sin in the enemy's camp. Has the devil stolen your job, your finances, your business, your wisdom, etc. what is that Satan has stolen from you? You will recover them all in Jesus name. Satan has stolen many believers' prayer life, fasting life, ministries, visions, passion, and faith. He deceived Adam and stole away from him all that God had given to him.

I have a message for you all dear ones in the Lord Jesus, we can recover all what Satan had stolen from us. It's true Satan came to steal but Jesus came to give us everything Satan had stolen from us."

****Jesus said your enemy wants to kill you.** I don't believe His statement was meant as a metaphor. I believe that Satan truly wants to kill every Christian and is working overtime to accomplish that goal.

Your Christian life is a bright light in a darkened world. Your Christian life exposes and brings to light the wicked and cruel tactics of your enemy. Like a powerful spotlight, everywhere you go you are the light of Christ illuminating the rat holes, the roach hideaways and the snake pits.

Satan hates you for being that light. He truly hates Jesus, but He knows he can't kill Him, so he aims for you.

Every time you interrupt his plans, he wants you dead. Every time you appear to expose his efforts to cause mayhem and chaos, he wants you dead.

You are a threat to his kingdom. You stand in the way of his plans for your children and grandchildren. You are like the 500-pound gorilla in the room. You are the Mama Bear - you are the Tasmanian Christian!

He hates you. He wants you dead! He wants you gone! He wants to never see you again!

But, he's out of devil luck Because the Abundant Life Savior lives in you and Satan has to get past Him before he can get to you!

****Jesus said your enemy wants to destroy you.**

Not being able to kill you he goes for the second-best idea. He will do everything possible to **destroy you.**

His hope is to make you ineffective and non-battle worthy. He wants to ruin your reputation, pollute your testimony and make you a non-event.

He starts by working against your mind. He will taunt you by telling you that you are unimportant and nothing you do has any merit.

He will twist and distort conversations and social media remarks to make it appear that no one has any respect for you anymore.

He will flood your mind with doubts, uncertainties, and fears about everything. He will tell you that your children can never be saved, that your grandchildren will never return to church or serve Christ. He will mock your illness, your limited finances, your difficult marriage, your loss of friendships, your bad choices and your fears.

His battle to destroy you is real. It isn't a stage production or a bad opera. The players are true life. It's you, and him, - here's the best part - and Jesus.

James 4:7 - ***⁷“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”***

When Satan comes to cause havoc in a Christian's life he might as well be whistling in the wind! He might as well be howling at the moon! He might as well be barking up a tree!

Here's the reason:

Jesus said - ***“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”***

You, as a Christian, have the promise of the indwelling spirit of Life. You are a child of God! The One who promises Abundant Life is your Provider, your Protector, your Sustainer, your Authority and your Savior.

Satan hates that but he can't do anything about that! He wants to impoverish you, but Jesus wants to abundantly bless you.

In that abundant life, He gives you the power to pray an effectual and fervent prayer.

James 5:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

In that abundant life, He gives you the power to believe.

Mark 11:23 (KJV)

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, 'Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea,' and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith."

(Obviously, he isn't talking about turning your faith into a gigantic Caterpillar earth-moving machine but rather using this example to remind us that our faith is a very powerful tool in our Christian life.)

In that abundant life, He anoints your testimony so that your words will overwhelm the words of the enemy.

The story of your Christian conversion is a powerful tool in your life. No one can refute it. Satan is powerless against it. You need to tell your story of how you gave your life to Jesus and how He forever changed you.

The reason product manufacturers, automobile dealers, banks, loan companies, reverse mortgage lenders, and even dating sites use testimonials is that there is immeasurable power in words. The fact that many of the testifiers are actors who have not actually used the product does not diminish the power of the testimonial. This tactic would not be used if it did not work.

God also knows the power of words.

Psalm 107:2, *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy".*

A personal testimony of conversion, healing, or any other answer to prayer has enormous effect upon people. Satan understands that principle and constantly seeks to minimize its destruction to his kingdom.

But the Abundant Life you have in Jesus undergirds your testimony and gives foundation to its structure.

In that abundant life, He enables you to love in a pure and righteous way.

The enemy wants you to hate - but Jesus fills you with love.

The enemy wants you to despise - but Jesus fills you with love.

The enemy wants you to be jealous - but Jesus fills you with love.

The enemy wants you to reject - but Jesus fills you with love.

The enemy wants you to retaliate - but Jesus fills you with love.

The enemy wants you to give up - but Jesus fills you with love.

The greatest Abundant Living you can know is to allow the Lord to direct your steps.

And, to allow His Holy Spirit to give you wisdom.

And, to keep His Word as the anchor to your faith.

And, to trust Him and continue to believe regardless of the circumstances.

I urge you to allow His Abundant Life to permeate every particle of your being. Anything less is drudgery.

Closing comments - Thank you for joining with us for Morning Manna today. My hope, and prayer, is that the message blessed and encouraged you.

CLOSING CHORUS

EVERY DAY WITH JESUS

**Every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before,
Every day with Jesus, I love Him more and more;
Jesus saves and keeps me, And He's the One I'm waiting for,
Every day with Jesus is Sweeter than the day before.**

CLOSING PRAYER