

Secrets Of The Abundant Life

Sometimes we are like Gideon who asked, "If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us?" (**Judges 6:13**). Often we start at the wrong place or time. We start with where we are currently and then we consider wanting to have the abundant life. "What would it take to make us happy?" Usually the answer is, "Just a little bit more!" Consider a different viewpoint and approach.

Jesus reminds us that life does not consist in the abundance of the things we possess (**Luke 12:15**). It is not wise to measure or judge ourselves with ourselves (**2 Corinthians 10:12**). The one who judges us is the Lord (**1 Corinthians 4:4**). Therefore, we need to learn not to judge anything before the time, until the Lord comes (**1 Corinthians 4:5-6**).

Consider some facts first. There is a time to be born and a time to die (**Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**). We brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we can carry nothing out (**1 Timothy 6:7**). What do we have that we have not received. So why do we glory as if we had not received it (**1 Corinthians 4:7**)?

Consider some other facts. God so loved us that He gave His Son to die for our sins (**John 3:16**). Jesus died for the remission of our sins (**Matthew 26:28**). The Holy Spirit has been given to us when we were baptized (**Acts 2:38**). The Word of God has been given to us so that we might have life in the name of Jesus (**John 20:30-31**). We have been added to the body of Christ to have fellowship with one another and to have fellowship with the Father and the Son (**1 John 1:3**).

We are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (**Matthew 6:33**). We have what we need, have we learned to be content (**Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:8; Hebrews 13:5**)? Our faith is more precious than gold or silver (**1 Peter 1:7**). God is able to make us stand (**Romans 14:4**). Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (**John 10:10**).

God has placed us in the body of Christ just as He desired (**1 Corinthians 12:18**). God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think (**Ephesians 3:20**). The God of hope is able to fill us with all joy and peace in believing (**Romans 15:13**). God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have poured out love and mercy on us abundantly (**Titus 3:4-6**).

We have responsibilities to one another. We are not just to please ourselves. Even Jesus did not please Himself (**Romans 15:1-3**). We are to bear one another's burdens (**Galatians 6:2**). If we have this world's goods and see a brother in need, we are to help them (**1 John 3:17**).

We are in this world, but not to be of this world (**John 17:13-16**). We are to set our mind on things above, where Christ is, and not on things on the earth (**Colossians 3:1-2**). We are to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (**1 Corinthians 15:58**). If we are growing in the "Christian Graces," an entrance will be supplied to us abundantly in the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:5-11**).

We have a hope sure and steadfast (**Hebrews 6:19**). We have a precious faith and have been given everything that pertains to life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:1-4**). We are looking forward to

receiving the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls (**1 Peter 1:9**). Therefore, be faithful unto death (**Revelation 2:10**).

Do not despise the riches of God's goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering (**Romans 2:4**). God will render to each one according to his deed. Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality (**Romans 2:6-7**). Indeed, Jesus has given us life, and it is indeed more abundantly (**John 10:10**).

Something to think about!

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