

## **The Abundant Life**

### **John 10:7-10**

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 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. NKJV

A search on YAHOO for the phrase The Abundant Life comes up with a little over 14,000,000 hits. There are books, Bible studies, self-help books, psychologists, blogs, even facebook pages.

Everyone wants the abundant life, but there are thousands of voices saying this is the way, follow me. I noticed Paris Hilton was arrested in Vegas for cocaine possession the other night. Her driver was booked on DUI. Now the celebrity shows and magazines look at her as having the abundant life. With millions of dollars at her disposal, fame and fortune so to speak, yet her life is far from what Jesus had in mind.

There are a number of books and articles about how to live the abundant life, but I want to tell you that if Jesus has saved you, you already have the abundant life, Jesus spoke of.

- I. The abundant life includes eternal life.
- II. The abundant life includes forgiveness of sin, no condemnation.
  - A. Acceptance
    1. Eph 1:3-6 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. NKJV
  - B. Favor
  - C. Significance
- III. The abundant life includes a clear conscience.
- IV. The abundant life includes fellowship with God.
  - A. Peace with God.
    1. Ro 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

- B. Come boldly
  - 1. Heb 4:15-16 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. NKJV
- V. The abundant life includes the right of prayer.
  - A. 1 John 5:14-15 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him. NKJV
- VI. The abundant life includes the Holy Spirit.
  - A. As a seal upon us to guarantee our final salvation.
    - 1. Eph 1:13-14 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. NKJV
  - B. To understand the Word.
    - 1. 1 Cor 2:13-14 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. NKJV
- VII. Fellowship with the Father
  - A. 1 John 1:3-4 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. NKJV
- VIII. Not every Christian experiences the abundant life.

George Bernard Shaw was a brilliant man, yet he rejected the message of Scripture. He placed his trust in his own systems of belief, which were based on human reason. Yet he could not find lasting inner peace, and he slowly lost confidence in what he believed. Shortly before Shaw died in 1950, he wrote, "The science to which I pinned my faith is bankrupt...Its counsels, which should have established the millennium, have led directly to the suicide of Europe. I believed them once...In their name I helped to destroy the faith of millions...And now they look at me and witness the great tragedy of an atheist who has lost his faith."

What he thought would bring mankind the abundant life only left death and destruction. The abundant life is found only in Jesus.

An old woman, known to all her neighbors as "Garbage Mary," lived in a small town in Florida. Every day she would be seen dressed in her rags, walking the streets, scavenging through garbage cans for food, which she hoarded in her car or in her tiny two-room apartment. She was a recluse with no friends, and, as she scrounged cigarettes and ice cubes from anyone who was available, it was logical to believe that she was an old woman who was rapidly losing her mind and living on the verge of destitution. Finally, Garbage Mary was picked up by police and confined in a psychiatric institution. But, when some court officials went to her apartment to collect a few of her personal effects, they were amazed to discover that there was money everywhere. Scattered through her apartment and her car were bank books, stock securities, oil-drilling rights, real-estate documents, and cash, which indicated that Garbage Mary was worth more than a million dollars. These documents also indicated that she was not an old woman, but a forty-eight-year-old college graduate, who had inherited a great deal of money when her father died in 1974. Though Mary could afford to have an abundant life, she had chosen to be Garbage Mary.

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