

ABUNDANT LIFE

We all have life, but the quality of life is subject to many factors... most of which are out of our control. Jesus Christ revealed many of the mysteries that allow us to dramatically improve the quality of our life... and to take control. Death is always hungrily waiting in the wings, but even on this issue, Christ has revealed how to defeat it. Not only are we offered and escape from death.. but we are extended a superior offer towards the life we now have... far better than anything we could ever have enjoyed outside of God's Spirit.

Jesus emphasises the need to enter in to his salvation... without it there is pain, violence and death.

JOH 10:9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. Salvation is based on Acts 2:38... repentance, water baptism and the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

10 The **thief** (those who deny Christ's gospel) cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more **abundantly**. The gospel promise is more than eternal life... it is also about dramatically improving the life we already have.

Salvation is not for the strong and powerful... they cannot enter into God's plan... more is required.

MAR 10:26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved?

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. *This statement begins to reveal the abundant plan for our lives.. make the sacrifices and the following promises apply.*

29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an **hundredfold** now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. *Jesus confirms the wonderful magnitude of God's plan for us while w still dwell on the earth... serve God and prosper beyond your natural capacity.*

However, a particular attitude is required if success is to follow.

ISA 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. Once Spirit filled... diligent and faithful growth is required.*

10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: Prosperity and abundance comes from steady long term growth... patience is required.

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. *God emphasises the great importance of tongues in his overall plan... thus Spiritual prayer is essential and extremely profitable.*

12 To whom he said, This is the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing; yet they would not hear. *Many will reject this gospel revelation... they will not make the sacrifices mentioned in Mark 10, and other revealing scriptures. For them, their fellowship will lead in the wrong direction... God reveals what happens when sacrifices are not made... (learning takes time and effort).*

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. *To stop growing is to stop living... a reversal of salvation comes into effect.*

Jesus again highlights the great need to understand the conditions of his Gospel.

MAR 4:23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. *We all have ears, but are we all receptive?*

24 And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. *God's abundance is based entirely on our attitude towards him. What we put to faith is what God puts to blessing.*

25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. *God gives or God takes according to our attitude towards him... this leaves us with very powerful incentives to follow his advice in all areas of the Gospel.*

God is not restricting us... he is trying to teach us the importance of obedience.

EPH 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding **abundantly** above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, *God is only limited by our willingness to obey him.*