

The Abundant Life of the Good Shepherd

TEXT

John 10:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰The 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.

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

INTRODUCTION

The Gospel of John gives us a profound picture of the Person and work of Jesus Christ. John states his purpose in writing this beautiful Gospel in John 20:31. There he writes: "*But these [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*"

THREE IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT THE LIFE THAT JESUS OFFERS

Point 1: Acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the only way to experience the life of abundance that Jesus Christ speaks about in John 10:10.

Point 2: Jesus Christ prepares a wonderful life with him in heaven (see Revelation 21:4).

Point 3: The abundant life that Jesus gives to us is not just for the future. Christ wants his people to walk in abundance right now. The Lord wants us to experience his best while we are living here on the earth.

DEFINITION OF ABUNDANCE

Abundance always speaks of more than what is sufficient. In the Old Testament, one of the names by which God reveals himself is *El Shaddai*, which roughly means "the God who is more than enough" or "the God of abundance." In the New Testament, Paul speaks of God's ability to do "exceedingly abundantly" above all that we could ask or think (see Ephesians 3:20), so God's idea of blessing far exceeds what we can imagine as human beings. Also, see Ps. 84:11 and Ps. 34:10.

THE LORD IS GOOD!

Jesus says, "I am the Good Shepherd." His goodness means that he is the source of all that makes life possible and worthwhile. We know that he is good because he does good things; acts which give life, which deliver from evil, and which empower his people. The goodness of the Lord is the foundation on which our faith is built. The ultimate act of goodness on his part was his sacrificial death on the cross. Christ is the Good Shepherd who has given his life for us that we might have eternal life in heaven and abundant life on earth.

THE ENEMY IS BAD!

Jesus tells us that the enemy comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. The devil wants you to live a life of worry, chaos, and defeat.

- The devil is a liar.
- He is a deceiver.
- He is a tempter.
- John 10:10 reveals him as a thief.

The Abundant Life of the Good Shepherd

WALKING IN VICTORY!

The devil can be resisted, though. James 4:7 tells us to submit to God and to resist the devil. The result is that he will flee.

- We resist the devil through standing on the Word of God.
- We resist him through obedience to the Lord.
- We resist him through fasting and prayer.
- We resist him through separating ourselves from sin.
- And we resist him through submission to the Holy Spirit.

HOW DO I WALK IN ABUNDANCE?

1. The Lord not only wants to forgive your sins, but he also desires to heal your body, regulate your mind, calm your fears, and deliver you from every form of bondage.
2. Put the Lord Jesus Christ first in your life and he will provide for you those things that will propel you toward your destiny.
3. Delight yourself in him and he will give you the desires of your heart.
4. Trust in him and his abundance will be available to you.

CONCLUSION

I conclude with the following short poem.

*Christ has given life abundant—
Live it fully every day;
Though our time on earth is fleeting,
He goes with us all the way.*

Christ came that we would have life and that we would have it more abundantly. Receive what he has for you today. God bless you!

For more on the theme of abundant living, see Dr. Wilfred Graves Jr., *In Pursuit of Wholeness: Experiencing God's Salvation for the Total Person* (Destiny Image, 2011).