

# JESUS: The Greatest Life of All

## STUDY FIVE

### Life . . . as God Intended It

#### *Selected Scriptures*

*Since life exists in such a small sphere of time, doesn't it make sense that we live it as it was meant to be lived?*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**W**HEN Jesus called the twelve disciples to follow Him, He offered no medical benefits, no retirement package, no vacation hours, no signing bonus . . . not even a salary. But Jesus did offer them something found only in Him. Giving that something freely to all who believe in Him was His purpose for coming.

*"I came so that they would have life, and have it abundantly."* (John 10:10 NASB)

*Abundant life* is the ultimate perk and worth more than anything this world has to offer. It's what everyone longs to experience, and it's what God intended all people to have. This *Searching the Scriptures* study explores its meaning and how we can live it. We'll gather clues from the gospels, where we'll trace it back to its purest source: the person of Jesus Christ.



#### PREPARE YOUR HEART

John wrote plainly about Jesus:

*The Word gave life to everything that was created,  
and his life brought light to everyone.* (John 1:4)



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Turn to the Light in prayer.

*Father, Your Son is life, and in Him alone is abundance. You designed me to live His kind of life, and now I seek to know Him more intimately and experience His life more fully. Unlock for me the treasure of abundant living in Christ as I study Your Word. In Jesus' name, amen.*



### **TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES**

Open the Scriptures to the book of John, where the gospel writer recorded some of Jesus' most poignant words about Himself:

*"I am the bread of life."* (John 6:35)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."* (11:25)

*"I am the way, the truth, and the life."* (14:6)

Jesus is life, and He gives life "to anyone he wants" (5:21)—not just any kind of life, but "a rich and satisfying life" (John 10:10). What is the nature of this life only Jesus gives? Let's find out.



### **Observation: What Abundant Life Is Not and What It Is**

Sometimes, the best way to grasp a concept is to compare it with what it is not. Use your skills of *observation* as you read Jesus' parable of the rich fool to discover what *abundant life* does not refer to.

#### **What Abundant Life Is Not**

What prompted Jesus' parable, according to [Luke 12:13–14](#)?



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What truth about possessions did Jesus teach in *Luke 12:15*? Read several Bible versions and note the different ways the translators phrased this principle.

Jesus illustrated His teaching with a story in *12:16–21*. Write down the main points of the story and the concluding lesson.

What is *not* abundant life, according to Jesus?

*We read about abundant living and think in terms of material possessions. Abundant living has nothing to do with your salary, the size of your home, or the kind of car you drive. You may have possessions and live abundantly or not live abundantly.*

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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#### What Abundant Life Is

Now let's consider what abundant life is. The theme of *life* is prominent in John's gospel and epistles. Let's take a brief tour of this theme in his writing and see its connection to living abundantly.

First, Christ existed "in the beginning"; He was "with God" and "was God" (John 1:1–2). In light of who Jesus is and His divine nature, what is the first characteristic of the life Christ gives, according to *John 3:15–16; 6:47–51; 10:27–28*?

Second, Christ "gave life to everything that was created" (1:4). Because He is the creator and sustainer of all things, what can we say about the source of life He offered? For the answer, reflect on the metaphor Jesus used in *4:13–14*. What was Jesus offering the woman at the well?

Third, while we know that physical life begins at conception, how does abundant life begin, according to *3:3–6*?



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Finally, while motivational speakers tantalize crowds with “keys to successful living,” the life Jesus speaks about is the richest and most satisfying. It can only be found where, according to *1 John 5:11–12*?

Christ’s abundant life sparkles from many angles. Look over your observations and sum up the facets you see so far. Abundant life is . . .

*We get human life through our parents, but there is an eternal dimension of living that comes from the creator of life and that gives light to otherwise blind eyes.*

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



### **Interpretation: What “Abundant” Means**

The Greek word for “abundant,” *perissos*, means “more than sufficient, over and above.”<sup>1</sup> The quality of Christ’s life is “over and above” (far surpasses) the quality of life the world offers. No amount of money can buy the abundant life because it has eternal dimensions that transcend physical reality.



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Abundant life is a feature of *eternal life*—which is only accessible by belief in Him. How did Jesus explain eternal life in [John 17:3](#)?

According to Jesus, we can experience eternal life *now* by knowing “the only true God, and Jesus Christ” (John 17:3). What does the word, *know*, mean in this context?

Abundant life is also a feature of the *kingdom of God*. How did Paul describe the kingdom of God in [Romans 14:17](#)?



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Let's piece together all we've discovered to form a composite picture. Abundant life is:

- Eternal in nature because Christ is eternal
- Created by Jesus who is the source of all life
- Available to us when we are spiritually born again
- Found only in God's Son
- Experienced through a relationship with God, both now and in eternity
- Evidenced by "goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (14:17)

God created each human with the capacity for this kind of life. What does it look like, specifically? Let's explore some signs of abundant living.

*If you refuse to believe in the Lord Jesus and to live under His control, you don't have abundant life. Without life's eternal dimensions, it's dull, boring, and futile. It's the empty passing of time. Jesus, however, provides a quality of life worth living.*  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



### **Correlation: What the Abundant Life Looks Like**

In *correlation*, we dig deeper into our subject by examining other Scriptures. What evidence of the abundant life did Jesus promise His followers in His final discourse and prayer in the following verses?

John 14:27: \_\_\_\_\_

15:9–11: \_\_\_\_\_

16:12–13: \_\_\_\_\_

17:13: \_\_\_\_\_



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Jesus lived abundantly, even though He owned no possessions and had no money. He didn't even have a place "to lay his head" (Matthew 8:20). Joy, peace, love, goodness, and purpose overflowed in Him and spilled over into the lives of those who followed Him. The abundant life is Christ Himself—who lives in you and through you!

*An abundant kind of life can't be measured by income or by health or by anything tangible. It's the life of Jesus Christ being lived out in the believer. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### **Application: Living the Abundant Life**

What are some ways you can start living the abundant life today? The beginning point is to place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Receive His living water just as the woman at the well did. Put your trust in Him and believe that His death on the cross atoned for your sins and that His resurrection secures your eternal life.

Have you trusted Christ as your Savior? If you're not certain, express your trust in Him right now through a prayer of faith.

Jesus promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him, and the Spirit has the power to generate within us an abundant life marked by Jesus' joy, peace, love, goodness, and purpose.





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When Christ's life flows through us, we are able to do the following.

1. *We soar.* We live above the drag of fear, superstition, worry, and negativism.
2. *We ignore.* We refuse to take our cues from those who operate from a worldly mind-set, because we listen only to God's voice.
3. *We risk.* We break out of our comfort zones by seeking God's will and stepping out in faith.
4. *We release.* We let go of our craving for control by putting Christ in the driver seat and letting Him steer our lives.

As a believer, are you tasting the fruit of Christ's abundant life? What aspect of abundant living do you long for more than anything you have found in this world? In prayer, ask Him to fill you with His abundance.

The world operates by the scarcity principle. Since there is not enough of what we need to go around, people must fight for what they want and live in fear and worry. In Christ, we can live by the abundance principle. Christ has all we need, and He freely gives His life to us. We can rest in His provision and feel the joy of His presence, regardless of what we possess or don't possess. What next steps can you take to live in Christ's abundance today?



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Living abundantly is directly related to *living in relationship with Christ*—resting in Christ, abiding in Christ, and depending on His power, which are the themes we'll explore in our next *Searching the Scriptures* studies.



### **A FINAL PRAYER**

*Father, Your hand is at work to shape me into the likeness of Your Son. Set me apart for Your service and, through Your Holy Spirit, deepen my walk with Christ. I long for His joy, peace, love, and grace, which I can't manufacture on my own. Give me the boldness to risk living beyond my own strength and trusting completely in the power of Christ in me. In His name I pray, amen.*

#### ENDNOTE

1. G. Abbott-Smith, *A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament* (Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1937), 357.

