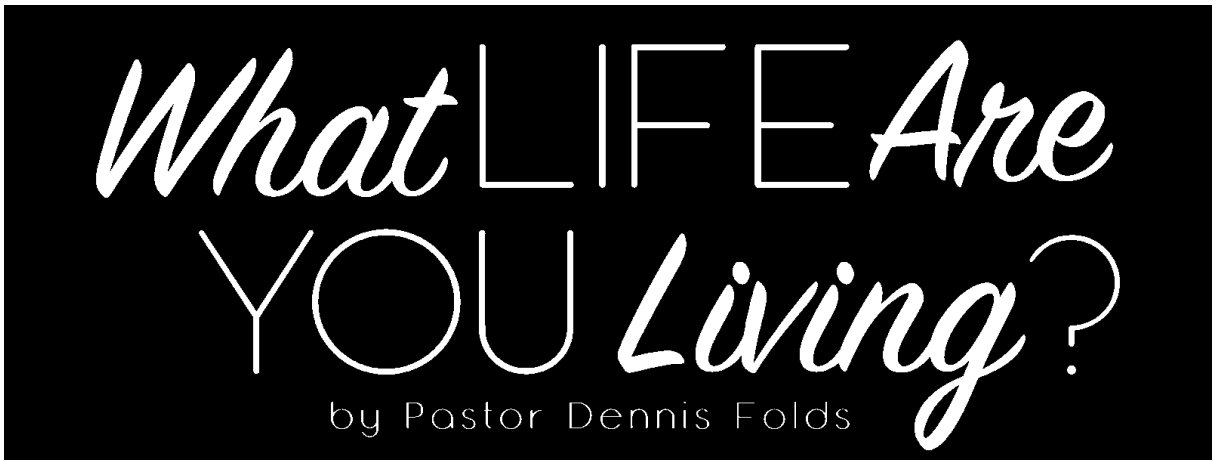


John 10:9-10

INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS

Judi and I extend greetings in Jesus Name to each of you personally and all of you, dear Tokyo Baptist Church Family of Believers and guests. Of course, personally, greetings to all of the pastors and to you at TBC Misato and TBC West Tokyo and Suva BC and Tonga BC.

PERSONAL COMMENT AND ANSWER

If I could sit for one hour and personally talk to each one of you individually and you were to ask me, "Dennis, in your long years of being a follower of Christ, a believer, a Christian, tell me the most important thing God has taught you?"

My answer to you would be

"HOW TO GO FROM LIVING A MEDIOCRE CHRISTIAN LIFE TO AN ABUNDANT CHRISTIAN LIFE."

Hebrews 4:11 "The word of God is living, it's alive, and it's active."

Important point

You need strategic, personal Scripture that can periodically be used to keep you on a spiritual direction in life, like a compass keeps you going in the right direction.

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death."

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 10:9-10 Jesus says, 9 "I am the gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance." CSB

Overview of John 10:9-10

- **Notice the last sentence of verse 10, Jesus says, "I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance."**
- **You see, it is possible to be saved, Halleluiah!, but live a life as a believer that is so regimented that your abundant life promised by the Lord Jesus after salvation is not really so abundant but really routine.**

Here is an example of a strategic Scripture for you:

Matthew 6:33 "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need." NLT AMEN!

Jesus is saying, it is necessary that you be consumed by ONE THING, that you focus only on ONE THING, SO MUCH, that you seek it first! Always! Here is the ONE THING!

"Seek the Kingdom of God above all else"

Important point

SEEK FIRST, WHEN YOU ARISE, SEEK FIRST ABOVE EVERYTHING; SEEK FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM!

Here is a suggested prayer

LORD, I SEEK YOU FIRST IN MY LIFE, IN MY HOME, IN MY WORK, IN MY MARRIAGE, IN MY RELATIONSHIPS! FIRST IN MY MINISTRY!

YOU ARE TO SEEK THE LORD FIRST BY OBEDIENCE TO WHICH THERE IS NO SECOND!

Important questions

WHAT GOD ARE YOU SERVING?

WHAT KIND OF LIFE ARE YOU LIVING? IS YOUR LIFE THE ABUNDANT LIFE PROMISED BY CHRIST AND ARE YOU SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD ABOVE EVERYTHING?

Remember

IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER IN CHRIST, EVERYWHERE YOU GO GOD GOES WITH YOU THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The application is this:

LIVE YOUR LIFE ENJOYING THE PRESENCE OF JESUS

Example from the Disciples who followed Jesus

If I were to ask you, "WHY DID JESUS COME?"

Important point

JESUS DID NOT COME TO EARTH JUST TO GIVE YOU AND ME, BELIEVERS IN CHRIST, LIFE FOREVER, ETERNAL LIFE.

Remember John 10:10b "I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance."

And Jesus said I DID NOT COME TO JUST GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE AFTER DEATH BUT I CAME ALSO TO GIVE YOU ABUNDANT LIFE AFTER SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

Notice in John 4:10 Jesus describes the gift that He gives you as living water. And 2 Corinthians 9:15 says "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

Notice the contrast of John 10:10

- **Jesus has come to us life but not just life, Jesus promises life in abundance**
- **Abundant life is a quality of life that is always above and beyond normal**

Here is what Jesus means by abundant life

THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS THE ONLY LIFE WORTH LIVING AND IS A LIFE LIVED IN CHRIST, THROUGH CHRIST, AND FOR CHRIST

Important point

JESUS SAID I DID NOT JUST COME TO GIVE YEARS TO YOUR LIFE. I CAME TO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR YEARS.

LISTEN TO AN EXAMPLE OF ABUNDANT LIFE

You see, there is even better news than just salvation. Jesus provides you with more than salvation. Jesus said in John 10:10b "I have come so that you may have life and have it in abundance." CSB

Not just forgiveness of your sins. Not just salvation and not just a continuing relationship with a loving God. Not just eternal life in heaven after you die. ABUNDANT LIFE! LIVING LIFE IN ABUNDANCE RIGHT NOW!

Important to Remember

ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS IS A LIFE UPGRADE. THERE IS LIFE AND THEN THERE IS ABUNDANT LIFE.

Important point

ARE YOU A TRUE BELIEVER IN JESUS CHRIST? IF YES, ARE YOU LIVING AN UPGRADED LIFE OF JOY AND VICTORY AND DAILY EXPERIENCING THE PEACE OF GOD THAT CANNOT BE DESCRIBED?

And the tragedy is

IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME OF YOU HERE ARE TRULY A FOLLOWER IN CHRIST, BORN AGAIN BELIEVER, BUT YOU CONTINUE TO SIT IN A COACH SEAT AND JESUS HAS OFFERED YOU AN UPGRADE TO FIRST CLASS BUT YOU REMAIN IN THE CHEAP SEAT!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 "You are not your own. You were bought at a price." You may sometimes hear a person say, "It's my life, I can live it any way I please." For a Christian believer, you should say, "It's not my life. I should not live it any way I desire because I belong to Jesus."

WATCH AND LISTEN to this song, "Let Revival Come" and pray for revival at TBC.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE FROM GEORGE BARNA

Important Reminder

THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT THE ABUNDANT LIFE IS A CONTINUAL PROCESS OF LEARNING AND MATURING AND PRACTICING AND IMPLEMENTING AND ADJUSTING OUR LIFE TO MEET GOD'S STANDARDS

1 Corinthians 13:12 says we sometimes "see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror."

Romans 12:2 "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." NLT

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!".

True abundant life is not an abundance of things but is a continual awareness of the presence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit being alive and active in your daily life.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

Remember

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE SPIRITUAL CHARACTER TRAITS GIVEN TO YOU BY THE POWER OF GOD THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN YOU BECAME A BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER

Take home application

Jesus said in Matthew 9:36 "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Colossians 3:12 what you and I are commanded to do: "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." NIV

Do you now see and understand what living an abundant life is about? It is living a life like Christ, reflecting Christ, in our actions and living, such as showing compassion and forgiving others.

Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." NIV

Here is a practical definition of COMPASSION

COMPASSION IS YOUR PAIN…IN MY HEART

Is there a broken relationship in your life, a relationship that you can fix by saying to someone, "As Christ has forgiven you and me, I forgive you."

You must emulate and reflect Christ in your daily life and your life will be an abundant life.

IMPORTANT STORY TO CONCLUDE

IMPORTANT POINT
Religious activity is good, but it is no substitute for knowing Jesus. And that's what eternal life is: Knowing Jesus. Living an ABUNDANT LIFE DAILY IN JESUS NAME!
I call on you to make a decision for Jesus Christ today! Let's pray!

DENNIS FOLDS
GUEST PREACHER AT TOKYO BAPTIST CHURCH

Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guests Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, we'd love to hear from you!
Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

TBC CLASSES OFFERED ONLINE

class 402 *Evangelism*

Nov 26th, Saturday
1:30pm – 4:30pm

class 101 *Membership*

Nov 27th, Sunday
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Classes are held in Lange Hall.

https://t-b-c.us/classes

Small Groups Information



SG Lesson
t-b-c.us/sg4622p

SG Sign-up
t-b-c.us/sgsu

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