

Life and Life Abundant

John 10:10; John 15:4-15

The man who never changed

The gift of life and life abundant has been given. How do we take hold of it?

1. Abide

John 15:4-11

2. Live

John 15:12-15

3. Choose

Joshua 24:14-15



Understanding Life... So I Can Really Live

"... I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."
John 10:10

Abundant - peri ssós – extravagant, over the top, more than you could ever need, beyond your wildest dreams.

1. _____

John 15:4-11

Abide – meno – remain, stay (permanent)

The process:

Connect - vs 4

Growth - vs 4

Pruning - vs 2, 6

Fruit - vs 7-8

Key Word - _____

Jeremiah 29:11-13

2. _____

John 15:12-15

This "abundant life" relationship will impact lives

My Life - Galatians 4:7

Their Life - 2 Corinthians 2:15

Key Word - _____

Psalms 34:8

3. _____

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Choose Life so you can live!



The Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

Life abundant, it almost doesn't seem possible does it? You and I can daily live in a relationship with the Father that is beyond our wildest dreams. God actually wants us to have this type of relationship. So how does it start? Honestly that depends on you. Jesus has already done the heavy lifting and God is waiting for you and I to come to Him. I would encourage you this week to slow down. There is no magic formula to a deeper walk with God, it just takes time. Let's be purposeful this week. Each day read the verses several times. Slow down. Allow God to speak into your life. The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step. Are you ready?

Monday: Abide - Read John 15:4-5

Abide. Wait. Rest. These words are so counter-culture to the world we live in. We want instant everything and we want it 5 minutes ago. God doesn't operate that way does He? What is God saying to you when you read these verses? Is it your schedule? TV? The Computer? Work? What is it that drives your life? Make a list, take a breath, and let God speak into what it means for you to abide in Him.

Tuesday: Letting Go - Read John 15:2, 6

Growth is fun; pruning... not so much. This is where most of us get stuck. The more we abide in Christ, the more we become like the vine that we are attached to, which means that there needs to be some pruning. Pruning is going to happen; it's how you handle it that makes all the difference. Do you trust God with the clippers? Are there some dead branches that you won't let go of? Do you believe that God loves you and likes you? Talk to Him about it. Read Jeremiah 29:11-13

Wednesday: Changing Perspective - Read John 15:7-11

Perspective is a funny thing. We spend so much time asking God for things that if we were to get them, would be the worst thing that could happen to us. When I abide and allow God to prune, my perspective changes. I want the things that God wants. Remember, this is a process, it doesn't happen overnight. Do you trust God with your dreams? Can you handle God telling you no because He has something better for you? For more perspective, read James 4:2-3; Isaiah 55:8-9; Luke 11:5-13; 2 Chronicles 1:7-13.

Thursday: Fruit - Read John 15:12-13; 2 Corinthians 2:15

Love one another, even the unlovely. That is not easy to do... on my own. There is someone in your life right now that God wants to show His love through you. Who is it? My guess is that it is probably someone that you wouldn't choose to love. It's funny how He works that way. On my own, I can't do it, but when I abide in Him, I draw my ability to bear fruit from the vine. God wants everyone to have this relationship, even the unlovely. Are you ready to bear some fruit?

Friday: Abide - Read John 15:14-15; Galatians 4:7; James 2:23; John 10:10

Friend of God, a son, an heir... are you kidding me? This abundant life that Jesus offers to all of us truly is beyond our wildest dreams. The Creator of the universe, the Sustainer of all things, wants a day to day, moment by moment, personal, intimate relationship with you. My hope and prayer for you is that you will continue on this journey with God. Remember that the enemy wants to steal, kill and destroy this relationship. God has already defeated him, and you have access to His power. Abide in Him. Spend some time today with Papa, just thanking Him for this amazing gift.

Next Steps

This is a process that won't be finished here on the earth. We want to come along side of you to help you in your relationship with God. We can't do it for you, but we do have some tools that will help you grow. If you were unable to pick up a card on Sunday with some suggested steps, here they are. I would strongly encourage you that if you haven't already, take one step forward. If you need some help, please feel free to contact me directly and be watching this Fall for a brand new ministry called "First Steps". I've really enjoyed these past two weeks with you.

Small Steps

Examples:

- Read John 10:7-16 or John 15:1-15 everyday until God tells you to move on.
- Go home and set your alarm clock 15 minutes early to spend time with God.
- Have a conversation with God and tell Him how you really feel.
- Come to the next Plugged In

Medium Steps

- Take a Life Application class.
(I Suggest "Real. Life. Faith." or "Answers for the Skeptics")
- Join a Men's or Women's Bible study
- Come to a Men's Huddle

Big Steps

- Join a Small Group (call or online at www.fbceg.org)
- Get an accountability partner
- Get a prayer partner