

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR *Real Life*

92. How to Live an Abundant Life

You are listening to episode 92 of the Encouragement for Real Life Podcast titled, "How to Live an Abundant Life." Welcome to the podcast today. Thank you for joining me! I'm glad we get to share life together in this way today. I help women live encouraged and less distracted so they can live abundant and joy-filled lives. This is my purpose statement. This is what I do, my focus, my mission. But I got to thinking the other day, what is abundant life, and how to we as women live one? This led me to explore that a little more. I knew the answer, but maybe the answer isn't so clear to everyone. So, why not make a podcast episode about it?? So, here goes! Hang with me here for this next short while and together we'll find out how to live an abundant life. Let's get to it.

Before we can live an abundant life, we must define it first.

So, what does an abundant life look like? When you think of an abundant life, what comes to mind?

Is it the abundance we find in this world? Like owning fancy things? Like having the perfect job or spouse? Maybe it's raising perfect kids or being in control of life (are either even possible??)? Or maybe it's striving for that dream, making lots of money, or winning the lottery? Between you and me, I've been known to think of an abundant life in these ways. For so many years, abundance, in my mind was found in these things.

Or does an abundant life to you mean something else? Maybe it has nothing to do with owning, or possessing, or striving, or winning? Maybe it has nothing to do with this world entirely?

It matters what we believe abundant life to be, because whatever we believe, that's what we'll pursue. That's what we'll hold dear.

But what does God, in His Word, say?

The thief approaches *with malicious intent*, looking to steal, slaughter, and destroy; I came to give life with joy and abundance. John 10:10 VOICE

Jesus voiced these words of truth pointing us to the reality that the thief comes to steal, but Jesus comes to bless. He gives and not takes. He is the author of joy and abundance, and gives them out freely to those who follow Him.

So, what is this abundance?

What the world considers abundance and what God considers abundance may likely be two different things. It can be easy for us to get confused.

Looking up the word abundance in the original language, I found in the Greek it's *perissos*, meaning more, greater, excessive, exceedingly. This reminds me of the verse in 1 Corinthians. It's in chapter 2

verse 9: That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him."

Wow, so does that mean if we follow Jesus we will have more money, fancier cars, big homes, greater prominence, a perfect earthly life? Sometimes we want those things or we pray for those things or we envy someone else who has those things, don't we? Is that the abundance Jesus is referring to? Because I know plenty of people who follow Jesus and who don't have those things. Maybe you do, too.

Or could this abundance be something else?

Something even greater than these? Something we can't even imagine (according to the verse we just read)? It's not always easy to focus on what we cannot see, isn't it? Because what we're tempted to pursue in this world looks pretty good some days, doesn't it? It's no wonder we desire material things. We discussed this verse in episode 86, but it's good to look at it again.

Set your mind *and* keep focused *habitually* on the things above [the heavenly things], not on things that are on the earth [which have only temporal value]. Colossians 3:2 AMP

The things of this world are temporary. They aren't going to last. And this reminds us that this earth is not our home. We're just passing through, and our time on earth is miniscule compared to eternity.

For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come. Hebrews 13:14 NLT

Yet we can be tempted to put so much value on our time here, and focus less on what's coming in the future.

The abundant life Jesus refers to is eternal life. It's the life that begins the moment when we believe Jesus came to die in our place and save us from everlasting destruction. And it lasts all throughout eternity. Forever. With no end. And it's a life that we cannot even imagine, fathom, or expect. It's something we cannot yet comprehend. That's abundant life.

But we don't have to wait to die to experience this abundant life. No. Because if you're following Jesus as your Savior, then you are already living in eternal, abundant life.

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3 NIV

Yes, we still live in fallen and broken world, and we'll experience the brokenness of it, but living in the assurance of this eternal, abundant life, we have hope. No matter what we experience on this earth. No matter what confronts us, confounds us. or confuses us. We have hope because of the abundant life Jesus came to give us.

So, how do we live an abundant life?

Based on these verses, it all begins by living life with Jesus. That means we believe in who He is, the Savior of the world. We choose to follow Him, His ways, and His leading. Living with Jesus is the foundation for living an abundant life.

We journey with Him through our days, allowing Him to teach us and mold us, and keeping our eyes fixed on Him. But some might say, "We can't see Him. How do we journey with someone we can't see?"

Well, we know He is with us, as Matthew 28:20 clearly states He will be with us to the end of the age. Just because we can't see Him with our eyes doesn't mean He's not with us. So, we pray and talk with Him, we spend dedicated time reading our Bibles and learning more about Him and His will for us. We listen, we look, we pay attention. And we praise and thank Him for all of it. Abundant life is living close to Jesus.

And we continue to walk this life out with hope and with Him. One day at a time, one moment at a time. Knowing He's leading us, guiding us, and molding us into the people He desires us to be. He'll continue this sanctifying process until He takes us home, all through the power of the Holy Spirit that resides in all who live for and follow Jesus. He doesn't leave us as we are or as we once were. And that, my friend, is a gift of abundant life in Him.

Because we live this abundant life, we desire others to live it, too. We can share with others what Jesus has done in our lives and encourage others by the encouragement He has given us. Life on earth becomes a little sweeter when we open ourselves up and share our stories of faith with others. Why would we not be willing to share this gift of abundant life to someone else?

Because one day either Jesus will take us home or He'll return to take us all with Him to eternity. And what we've done with the life He's given us on earth will matter regarding our life in eternity. How did we live this abundant life here? What did we do with our lives? Who did we help, and with whom did we share Jesus? And how close did we walk with Jesus here? It all matters. It makes a difference. In our lives and in the lives of those around us.

This is how we live an abundant life.

It's not going to be a perfect life here, but it will be in eternity.

It's not always going to look pretty here, but it will in eternity.

Abundant life is available to us now, but will last all through eternity.

Abundant life is a gift from Jesus, so let's share this gift with others.

You and I can choose how we live this life on earth, but I pray we choose a life of abundance. The life Jesus came to give us. That's filled with His joy, His presence, His peace, and provision. And I pray we share this gift with another today. It matters now and it matters in eternity. May we encourage one another to keep our eyes lifted to the heavenly things, not focused on what we see here. And may we remember what's temporary and what's eternal.

Thank you for joining me here today, friend. I pray this episode got us thinking and helps us stay focused. If you found encouragement in it, would you please rate it and/or review it so others can find this encouragement too? Be sure to subscribe so you never miss an episode. I appreciate you. Go out and live an abundant life today! God bless you!

Links in this episode:

[John 10:10](#) VOICE

Episode 86, [The Distraction of a Busy Mind Says, "Think About This"](#)

[1 Corinthians 2:9](#) NLT

[Colossians 3:2](#) AMP (I realized late that I misquoted this verse in the episode.)

[Hebrews 13:14](#) NLT

[John 17:3](#) NIV

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