

216. Summer of Abundance Bonus

Recap: Keep Eternity in View

[00:00:00] Welcome to the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. I'm Julie Lefebure, your host. Life is remarkable, sometimes raw and always real. And some days we could use a little extra encouragement for our real lives. Here you'll find that. Along with personal life impacting stories, helpful life hacks, timely inspiration, Biblical insight, and a fresh perspective.

The Encouragement for Real Life Podcast equips you to be a light in this world and to shine bright wherever God has you. I'm glad you're here today.

Julie Lefebure: Welcome to Encouragement for Real Life. I am so glad you're here today. Well, last week we crossed over the finish line in our summer of Abundance series here on the podcast, and it was a 12 week series of summer of abundance. And we have been walking through 12 different [00:01:00] elements of how to live an abundant life in Christ.

So I think we need to pause right now and just celebrate. If I had some confetti, I would toss it. But I don't. But 12 weeks is a long time. It's the longest series I've ever done. And I just want to applaud you, whether you were here for just one week or all 12. I am proud of you for just embracing this, this idea of living an abundant life. Because it's really not an idea. It's what Jesus came to give us and that is stated in John 10:10. So yes, Jesus came to give us an abundant life.

So we can celebrate the 12 weeks that we've walked through. And I just thank you for journeying with me through, through all of these weeks and learning what does it mean to live an abundant life, and how do we go about doing it and just incorporating it into our everyday life, not just a season.

Abundance isn't just for the season [00:02:00] of summer. No, it's for our whole life, not just a season. So I don't know about you, but I feel like those 12 weeks just sped by at record speed. Summer to me, went so fast. And I really did all I could to slow it down, and I'm sure you did too because of the things we were learning through this series.

But, you know, I just didn't feel right about abruptly ending the series last week, and just moving on to something else. So in today's episode, we are gonna do a recap and we're gonna ponder where do we go from here? Okay, so we've

covered 12 important elements and we've, we've looked at why it's important to live an abundant life. But where do we go from here?

My prayer is that you were helped in learning how to live that abundant life that Jesus came to give you. But now what? Right? So, how do we [00:03:00] live these out, these abundant life elements out? Well, how we do it is we keep eternity in view with a kingdom perspective. So if you are ready to take the step forward with me, into looking at keeping that eternity in view and keeping that kingdom perspective. Let's get right into this episode.

Julie Lefebure: Well, here we are, 12 weeks of learning and reflecting and applying God's Word together. 12 weeks of truth and hope and encouragement. And 12 weeks of understanding how we can go from a life of just settling to a life of abundance. These 12 weeks transformed my life, and I [00:04:00] pray that they did that for you too.

Now if you missed any of the episodes in the Summer of Abundance Series, they remain a part of the Encouragement for Real Life podcast. So you can find them anytime. You can go visit them at any time. Just look for the Summer of Abundance Series. They won't be hard to find.

Also what will remain are the Summer of Abundance Companion Pages and the various resources in my free resource library on my site, which you can always access in the show notes. Also what will remain is the Abundant Life playlist on Spotify. I listen to that playlist every single day. So I designed that for me and you so we can, um, be reminded of living an abundant life. All of those songs on there just point us to abundant life and to the life that Jesus has for us.

So as we recap our series today, setting our sights on a Kingdom [00:05:00] perspective, when we do that, our souls desire to keep eternity in view. That's what our souls are designed to do, to keep eternity in view. It's our flesh and our, our, our selfish desires that want to view what's here on this earth instead. But that's what matters, right? Keeping eternity in view? Keeping what's important in our focus? Yes, we've been learning what it means to live an abundant life with Jesus here on this earth, and that matters. But eternity is our real home, not this temporary one.

So to get our focus set, let's turn to our key scriptures today for this episode. And the first one prompts us to focus on what truly matters. It's actually one of my favorites. It's Colossians chapter 3, verses 1 and 2. You can find it also in

your companion pages if you have access to those. If not, you can find them on my website in my free resource [00:06:00] library. You can pause and and go to that if you want to. But in Colossians chapter 3, verses 1 and 2 in the New International Version, it reads like this. " Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above not on earthly things."

I need to have that in front of me every single day. When our hearts and minds are turned toward Jesus, toward the heavenly things, not on the things we see on this earth, we are able to keep eternity in view and live a full life of joy and abundance. That's how we can do it. We focus on the important, the lasting the, the eternal things. Not the fleeting things that we get tripped up with on any given day. But when life is disappointing here, [00:07:00] we find encouragement in what's to come. When our days are filled with questions or confusion, thinking about Jesus and His perspective, keeps us aligned with God's plans and purposes. Living with this truth in front of us , it transforms us into abundant living, joy filled people of God, no matter our circumstances. It matters so much. So yeah, keep that, scripture tucked in your heart.

The second scripture is Matthew chapter 6, verses 19 through 21 in the New International Version. And this one also helps us with an eternal perspective. This is what it says. "Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moths and vermin destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for [00:08:00] yourselves treasures in heaven where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

It is so good. It is so good. What we invest here on earth can fade or be destroyed or be stolen, right? But our eternal treasure, such as our relationship with God, His Word, the souls of the people around us, living rightly, acts of generosity and, and serving those in need. All of those things, they are what lasts forever.

And the thing is, every element that we've practiced in this series, identity and gratitude and presence and obedience, is not just for today, but for eternity's sake. For our lives in the future. Yeah, it matters in eternity what we [00:09:00] do with the life we're given today.

So I wanna ask us today, ask us this question, are we settling or are we thriving? Are we focused just on getting by with the things of this earth? Or are we living abundantly for eternity? You know, we can forget why eternity matters for

abundant living. But, let's look at these instances as to why it's important to abundantly live for eternity.

The first one is purpose. Each act of faithfulness has eternal significance.

The second is priorities. Our priorities matter. When eternity is our focus, we spend our time and our money and our energy differently.

And peace. Present trials that we walk through, they feel lighter when compared to the eternal glory that is to come. And we receive [00:10:00] peace from that. We receive peace from knowing that eternal glory is coming.

And so another little bonus scripture for this to go with this is 2nd Corinthians chapter 4, verses 17 and 18 in the New International Version. This one's not in your companion pages if you're referring to them. But this scripture reminds us, "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but what is unseen. Since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Perfect scripture for us today to go with that.

So keeping eternity in view changes how we show up today. Less frantic and more faithful. Less consumed, and more content.

So let's just take a quick look back. Let's highlight and review the eternal [00:11:00] perspective of our 12 elements that we just walked through the last 12 weeks. It's gonna be quick, so hold on tight. Here we go.

The first one, identity in Christ is just reflecting on who you are in Christ is not temporary, it's eternal. Our true identity as God's children, God's daughters will last forever.

The second one, renewed mindset. Training our thoughts for truth prepares us for eternity where we will see fully what we only can glimpse now.

The third is intimacy with God. Staying close to your source here is practice for eternal fellowship with Him in heaven.

The fourth is spiritual surrender. Every act of surrender now reflects the eternal freedom we will fully experience in Christ.

The fifth purposeful presence. Being present in each moment right now reflects the eternal [00:12:00] truth that this life is short, but what we do impacts eternity.

The sixth, joyful gratitude. Thanksgiving here is preparation for the eternal song of praise in Heaven. And that's in Revelation chapter 7, if you ever wanna look that up. But yeah, that eternal song, of praise in Heaven.

The seventh is physical wellness. While our earthly bodies are temporary, caring for them honors God in the here and now and points us to the hope of resurrection in eternity.

Number eight, healthy rhythms. Living in God's rhythms now prepares us to enter His eternal rest.

Number nine, Godly contentment. It helps us to let go of temporary things and sets our hearts on the eternal riches of Christ.

The 10th life giving words. Our words can point [00:13:00] people to eternal hope. Oh, that's so important. And encouragement today may draw someone closer to Christ forever. Our words matter.

11 is faithful generosity. Every act of giving here stores up treasure in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy.

And 12, the last one, courageous obedience. Choosing to do it afraid reflects eternal trust, believing that following Jesus is worth everything now and forever. Amen.

Friend, each element that you've already walked through these last 12 weeks has eternal significance and is preparing you for eternity. Each one matters. Not just in your life today, but in your forever life that's ahead for us. That hope that we have of [00:14:00] eternity.

So, how will you keep eternity in view today? I've come up with just four simple, practical ways to keep eternity in view, to start simple and start just very easily. But just to make, just take a few small steps.

The first one is to begin your day with worship. To set your mind on things above. And that's what I use the Abundant Life playlist on Spotify for. So yes, begin your day with worship.

Another one is to ask daily, am I living for earth's applause or heaven's rewards?

Another one is to live generously. Invest your time and your resources and encouragement in people.

Anchor yourself in scripture and prayer to remember that this world is not the end. This is not all there is.

So those four ways [00:15:00] are simple, but they will help you and me keep an eternal focus in mind. Keep our minds on eternity. You know, it doesn't have to be a grand activity that we do. But just something more of I guess just incorporating eternity into our everyday life and keeping that as our focus.

For example, um, you know, there have been times when I've wondered if what I'm doing - this podcast writing, hosting the women's events that I do, um, my mentoring - is any of this really making a difference? Yeah, there's days that I wonder that. And some days it feels like planting seeds in dry ground and I don't see the fruit that I long for. But when I keep eternity in view, I remember that God sees every seed I've sown, every seed I plant, even [00:16:00] the ones that I'll never see sprout on this side of heaven. But that perspective gives me strength to just keep going, to keep showing up faithfully, knowing the impact is eternal even if it may be invisible to me right now.

So I wanna encourage you to keep going. To keep planting the seeds. Even when you can't see it. Even when you don't see the fruit. But abundance here, that we get to experience here is just a glimpse of the glory that's ahead. So keep showing up. Keep living that abundant life. Keep eternity in view. Your life, your words, your choices, they matter forever.

Let's pause right here for a Biblical affirmation. You know I love to give these. I love to pull scripture and, and, and speak scripture out loud.

A good one for today would be I live today with eternity in mind. [00:17:00] My treasure is in heaven. My hope is in Christ. And my heart is set on things above. I'll repeat that.

I live today with eternity in mind. My treasure is in heaven. My hope is in Christ. And my heart is set on things above.

How about some reflection questions? Here are three.

How has my view of abundance shifted through this series? Another one, what earthly treasure am I tempted to cling to more than eternal treasure? And the third, where can I make a small eternal investment this week?

And now let's put that into action. One way to do that is to read Colossians 3, 1 through 2 each day this week, preferably in the morning. Kind of gets our hearts and our minds set in the right direction.

Number two, [00:18:00] identify one way to invest in eternity. Maybe through serving or encouraging or giving or sharing Jesus with someone that you know, or maybe someone you don't know.

And number three, journal, a gratitude list that includes eternal blessings such as your salvation, God's promises, or the hope of heaven. Has nothing to do with the earthly blessings, but the eternal blessings. I think your list is gonna be bigger than you think it will. It's fun to think about that and to really keep that present in our hearts.

Will you pause with me? Let's pray. It's a good time to pause and pray. Let's do that.

Oh, heavenly Father, I thank You. Thank You for Your truths. Thank You first of all, Lord, for this whole series that You've guided us through and these elements of living an abundant life. And Father, here we are [00:19:00] today, adopting a Kingdom perspective. We're we're focusing on keeping your eternity in view. Father, we don't wanna live for the temporary things of today. We wanna live for the eternal things of tomorrow. So, Lord, I pray for each and every one, listening, watching, each and every one that maybe just trying to understand, Father, how we can live with eternal views every day, when this life wants to keep us stuck right here focused on the issues of today in this world. But Father, you call us to a higher ground. You call us to lift our eyes. To not focus on the things of this earth, but to focus on the things of heaven. So I pray that You'll help us to do that, not just today. Not just right now when we're praying, when we're listening to the podcast. But Father, that we will invite You to change our hearts, to change our sights, that we look at things differently, that we keep that eternal perspective of [00:20:00] what's truly important and how we live on this Earth today matters for tomorrow.

Thank You, father, for these truths. Continue to grow us and mold us into the women that You desire for us to be. We're so grateful and we love You so much. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thank you for being a part of the Summer of Abundance series. It means the world to me that you are here today, and that you have allowed the Lord to use this in your life to bless you and to strengthen you and encourage you. Please revisit this series whenever you need a reminder or a reset, or you just need some encouragement. Because this series is timely for any season in life, right? Not just the summer. Yeah. Summer is, is, uh it was fleeting. But abundant life is not.

And I invite you to share this series with a [00:21:00] friend. Yes, even though summer is officially over according to the calendar. But that doesn't matter regarding living abundantly. In fact, we are living lives of abundance, not just a season of it. So feel free to share it with a friend or share it on social media. However you wanna connect with other people. But other people also need an abundant life as well. The women in your life. The, the people in your life who feeling stuck or stagnant.

And on that subject, if you've been feeling stuck or distracted or you feel like you're settling for less than than what God has promised, I want you to know that you don't have to stay there. This fall, I am opening five spots for Abundant Life mentoring. Together, we will walk step by step into the abundant life that Jesus offers. You can learn more and grab a spot, uh, at the [00:22:00] link in the show notes, and you can even schedule your free 20 minute connection call to see if it's something for you. All of that's in the show notes.

Next week. I'm excited for next week. It's our monthly guest episode and you won't want to miss this one. All year long, I'm inviting people on the podcast who have impacted my life in wonderful ways over the years. And next week's guest is one who impacted me greatly in my high school years, maybe more than anyone else did in those trying teenage years. You'll get to meet to the woman who spoke life to me when I needed it most. And I believe her words will speak life to you too. So come back next Tuesday. Bright and early, it'll drop. Can't wait to see you then.

I want you to know, friend, that you matter. You matter [00:23:00] to me and I'm grateful that, that we get to journey together through this life. And I also want you to know that God loves you and so do I. God bless you.

Thank you so much for joining me here today. You can find more at julielefbure.com. And until next time, stay encouraged.