

Good News
εὐαγγέλιον / euangelion

The Abundant Life

In the Gospel of John, written by the Apostle John, he records an allegorical story given by Jesus where He describes Himself as the Good Shepherd who tends sheep (see John [10:1-21](#) for the full account). Jesus explains that temporary hires don't care about the welfare of the sheep (verses [12-13](#)), and thieves are malicious and come to steal and kill the sheep (verse [10](#)). In contrast, Jesus is the Good Shepherd who truly cares for the sheep, even to the extent of laying down His life for them (verses [11](#), [15](#)). The sheep represent those who follow Jesus, and He says this about them:

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

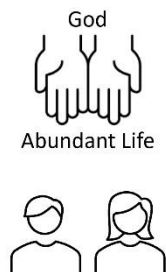
This statement by Jesus implies that He actively promotes their wellbeing. He wants them to live life to the full. The Greek word translated "abundantly" means outstanding, over and above, overflowing, or extraordinary in number, size, or quality. Jesus uses this word to describe the superabundance that He wants to bring to the lives of those who believe in Him.

But what makes a life abundant? If you asked the average person on the street in an affluent culture, you would get answers like wealth, success, popularity, fame, being a social media influencer, having lots of friends, or having a good time. Some people might give a more noble answer like doing something worthwhile, raising successful children, or helping others.

In other cultures, the answers might focus on the basics of life like food, clothing, a place to live, or freedom.

There are many people in affluent cultures who have these things but are unhappy and their lives are empty. They go through multiple marriages/partners, suffer depression, turn to drugs and alcohol to ease the pain, are depressed, and sadly, some commit suicide.

Why does having these things not lead to an abundant life? They are the wrong starting place. **An abundant life begins with God.** Again, as Jesus said, "*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*"



The abundant life that God offers through Jesus Christ is:

An eternal life – it lasts forever. You probably know the verse John 3:16, where the Bible says:

For this is how much God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have everlasting life. (John [3:16](#))

A life of true joy. The joy that God gives is radically different from what people seek through the things listed above. God's joy does not depend on circumstances. It persists through the good and the bad. It is not disturbed or shattered by pain, grief, loss, or misfortune.

A life free from need. God generously supplies for every need, both material and spiritual, for those who follow Him:

And my God will fully supply for every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
(Philippians [4:19](#))

A life of purpose. God gives His followers gifts, talents, abilities and skills to fulfill their good passions and help others. He wants to make their lives count. His followers are His works of art, created for the purpose of doing good things:

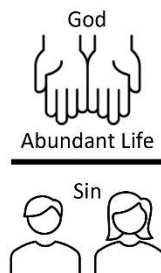
For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. (Ephesians [2:10](#))

This is just some of what God offers through the abundant life.

Sin (Bad News)

Unfortunately, there is bad news - a serious problem prevents us from receiving this abundant life.

The Bible says that **our sins have separated us from God** (Isaiah [59:2](#)), and "*all have sinned*" (Romans [3:23](#)). Sin places a barrier between us and God. It alienates us from God, the only one who can give us the abundant life.



So, what is sin? Simply stated, sin is to miss the mark or fall short of a standard, to fall short morally or to do wrong. It includes offenses of all kinds from simple errors to heinous crimes. It is any action that deserves punishment.

Because God sets the standards for moral behavior, sin can be defined as failure to be what God wants you to be and failure to do what God wants you to do.

However, the problem is worse than just being separated from God. The Bible also tells us that:

The wages of sin is death. (Romans [6:23](#))

Wages are what a person earns from the work they do. We earn death from our works of sin.

This is something we know to be true from what we see. We all die. So, no matter how meaningful or abundant a person might make their life without God, it is only for a short time. It is not an eternal abundant life. We are all going to die, and that self-made life, no matter how meaningful or abundant, will be gone.

The Way (Good News)

Fortunately, there is some very good news. There is more to that verse just quoted above:

*For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans [6:23](#))

Because of His love for us, God provided a way for us to experience the abundant life He offers that deals with our sin. How? Through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ explained it this way. He said:

*I am the **way**, and the **truth**, and the **life**.
No one comes to the Father except through me.* (John [14:6](#))

Jesus Christ is the **way** to the abundant life. He provides a way past the separation between us and God the Father.

In fact, He is the **life** – the source of the abundant life.

He is also the **truth** – which was revealed in His death and resurrection. What is that truth?

First, Jesus Christ died for us:

*God demonstrates His own love for us
in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans [5:8](#))

Jesus Christ took upon Himself the wage of death we earned and died in our place. His death removed the barrier between us and God. God is satisfied with what He did. Now God is able to forgive our sins and offer us the abundant life – a life that is eternal.



A second truth is that not only did Jesus Christ die for our sins, but He rose again from the dead, demonstrating that He is life. (1 Corinthians [15:3-4](#))

Believe

Third, to receive the abundant life, you must turn to God by trusting in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins. The Bible says you simply need to:

Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved. (Acts [16:31](#))

To believe something is to put your faith in it or trust it - to have confidence in it. Those who believe in Jesus Christ are saved from their sins and death to the everlasting abundant life.

You can show your faith or trust by talking to God, which is what prayer is. In fact, regarding salvation the Bible also says:

Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Romans [10:13](#))

Calling on God is praying to Him.

Do you want to put your trust in Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and receive the abundant life that God offers? If so, you can express your trust through a prayer such as:

God, I admit I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died and rose again for me, and you have forgiven my sins. Let me begin that abundant everlasting life with you. Amen.

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