

Introduction to the Series

We come to this new series entitled This Abundant Life, with a great sense of anticipation. The name given to this series of books is rooted in a very well known scripture - John 10:10:

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

It is in this great statement, simple yet profound, brief but all-encompassing, that Jesus explains everything: how the sickness, pain, hurt, despair and death which we experience in this world are not acts of God, but acts of a thieving Enemy, and how Jesus has come to defeat that enemy and give us life -- life abundantly. It does not get more concise than that. There is no better explanation for the totality of our current human existence. We live in a world at war, amidst conflict between forces much larger than ourselves. One side wishes to destroy us. The other wishes to bless us with His life. Our main role in this conflict is simply to choose sides, and do so daily, even hourly.

The choice is about what to believe in the midst of a barrage of lies. We wage war continually upon the battlefields of our heart and our minds, choosing either lies or abundance, to believe the Destroyer or the Blessed One. In so choosing, we either become liberated, or sink deeper into the bonds of captivity.

Living in this war-torn environment of life, even for the Christian, is difficult and sometimes discouraging. Yet Jesus didn't come just so we could get by or muddle through. Rather He became a man, grew, lived, taught, was crucified, died, was buried and rose again so that we might have newness of life, and that life in abundance. Jesus didn't die so you could lose. He died that you might reign victoriously in this life and the next. However, He never promised a life without trouble or difficulty or conflict. Quite the opposite, being one of His disciples comes with all kinds of costs and will produce all kinds of conflicts and challenges. In the midst of all this, He promises life in abundance.

The abundant life which Jesus promises is not a life free from want, but it is a life free from wanting. It is a life of peace, contentment, inner comfort and joy by His Holy Spirit despite our circumstances, regardless of our situation. This life in Christ is abundant, and that abundance allows us contentment with godliness, which is great gain.

Our hope for you, our readers, is that through this series, Jesus may empower you to overcome your fear, insecurity and doubt and choose to live this abundant life daily.

May the Lord bless you as you embrace His abundance!

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