

Life Abundant

The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

—John 10:10—

Our conversion testimony is a wonderful thing. It commemorates the grand and unique work of salvation the Holy Ghost wrought in the heart of an individual lost child of the devil. The fact that He does that work so many times over in as many unique ways as to populate the halls of heaven with a multitude that no man can number is an attestation to the limitless grace and mercy of our God.

Yet our conversion to Christ is just the beginning. The fact is that the magnificent work of salvation from eternal condemnation and hell fire is but one component of our Lord's plan for each of us. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the gift of the Lord Jesus to the hearts of His beloved, is the promised seal of our purchased redemption and the means by which He continues working His will in and through us.

In our text, Jesus clearly and categorically states that life in Him is *abundant*. That means *overflowing, incessantly productive, unendingly full*. The eternal life which we possess through the new birth is in stark contrast to the natural life received from our parents. The natural life, owned by the arch-thief, is filled with moments of gratification that dissipate into nothing, creating a never-ending search for meaning and fulfillment that leads to destruction. Eternal life, on the other hand, is ever increasing. Setbacks and stumbling aside, the Giver of this life promised it would be abundant, flowing, springing, and everlasting. Great works of grace within the heart produce continuous acts of faith in the life. These will manifest themselves in many ways, from sewing the seed in the hearts of men, to harvesting works of evangelism, to words fitly spoken to him that is weary, to worshipful times alone with God, to simple moments of trust in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But make no mistake – this eternal life is always actively growing in the heart of the child of God, from the point of re-birth to moment of graduating to glory. Though the outward man perishes, the inward man is renewed day by day.

Many professing Christians speak longingly of the fire-filled days that immediately followed their conversion experience, or nostalgically recall great acts of faith done in the Lord's name in earlier times. There is no harm in this, *unless it is the evidence that we have quenched the work of the Spirit in our lives and our life in Christ feels less abounding than it once did*. Eternal life is abundant – the Master Himself said so. The things before us are greater than the things behind. Let us make certain that our hearts are in right relation to our Savior. A new day is at hand. Let us live it abundantly in and through His marvelous grace!

— DCM