



It's Up To You!

I know you've heard the term, "the sky's the limit!" What does this term mean to you as a Christian? To me, it means that I can't go very far, a slightly different view of the worldly meaning. I don't want the sky to be my limit. *I want heaven to be my limit.* God wants heaven to be my limit too. He never envisioned man to be held prisoner by this earth. He wants His expectations for us to become ours. God wants us to have the greatest life possible. He sent His son Jesus Christ to make this possible. Jesus Christ came that we might live super abundantly.

John 10:10 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.

How many people do you know that live this kind of life? I know a lot of people, but most don't even come close to living the Christian's More Than Abundant Life! That's very sad. What about you? *Do you live a life filled with God's abundance?* I do and I want you too as well! Let's do something about it. Let's all live the more than abundant life, all day long, every day.

Have you ever wondered what "abundance" really means? God has provided us with startling examples of His expectation of abundance.

Genesis 1:20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

How many fish are in the ocean, how many fowl in the skies above? I don't know anyone who knows the answer to that question because THERE ARE SO MANY! That's abundance.

Numbers 20:11 And Moses

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lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

When Moses hit the rock to bring forth water for the Israelites AND their animals in the desert, enough water came forth to provide for ALL. That's abundance.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Man thinks all kinds of unrighteous thoughts; they are many. God will pardon them all. That's abundance.

2 Corinthians 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity

and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

Paul described how much time he had spent with the Christian believers. He compared his worldly way of life (conversation) to his Christian way of life. His time and quality of life with Christians was far more than the worldly time. That's abundance.

2 Corinthians 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

Abundant Sharing, the giving of material and financial abundance for the move of God's Word, is something very close to my heart. I know what it means to give, to administer and to receive this abundance. I've seen thousands

upon thousands of dollars under my administration go to many different needs, but that amount pales in comparison to the many thanksgivings to God by those who abundantly share. That's abundance.

Ephesians 3:20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Ephesians is an amazing book in the Bible, and It's wisdom is quite spectacular. *No man can top God's ability to abundantly exceed our words and thoughts.* God can do more for you than you can think. He can say more for His purpose than you ever could because it's all based on His power which resides in you. That's abundance.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the
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God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Only God's Word can put God's mercy in proper perspective. God's mercy is abundant and it will be fully manifested at the time of Jesus Christ's return. There never has been such a great showing of mercy as there will be on that great and notable day when Christ returns to gather together the saints. *All Christians look for the day when God's mercy will be so fully revealed.* That's abundance.

2 Peter 1:11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

We, as Christians, have no need to fear being left out of entering into the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ. Not only shall an entrance be given to you, it will be an ABUNDANT entrance. Not quite sure what that means, but I do know that it's going to be GREAT! That's abundance.

I've just given you some wonderful examples of abundance from God's perspective. These are manifestations of God's expectations of abundance. What does this mean to you? It means that you now have a gauge by which you can judge if your own expectations of abundance are lofty enough. If you let the sky be your limit, is it really high enough? Why not let heaven become your limit. *Why not let the more than abundant lifestyle become your standard of living?* God wants and expects you to have His abundant abundance in

all aspects of your life. Do you? Once you taste of the truth and what something is supposed to be like, it's really hard to go back to a lesser way. Living a spiritually fulfilled and abundant lifestyle is no exception. From now on, stop making exceptions and change your expectations of abundance to mirror God's – whether it's things spiritual, fish, fowl, water in the desert, freedom from sin, a fulfilled Christian lifestyle, receiving anything from God, or things eternal. Feel free to change any limiting thoughts to reflect how God thinks things should be – and then become that. It's up to you!

Much love in Christ!

Jerry D. Brown