

**December 9, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Prov. 11:25 *A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.* (NIV)**

There is a wonderful understanding in today's verse. Many people might read this verse and think it has solely to do with financial blessings. Actually, it has a much deeper and richer meaning. Why would the LORD bless us with real and abundant life? Would it be so that we could keep it to ourselves? Never! This verse uses a term in Hebrew that literally means 'one who waters.' The connotation here is one who pours out from their abundance. We are to be life-givers. Just as Christ brought us real and abundant life, He also expects us to then give this life away continuously. Now you may have seen someone standing by an intersection who has a sign saying they need money or work for food. This always tugs on the heartstrings of most people. But more importantly, these people remind us of the wealthy and the poor who really need Jesus more than anything else. They have not yet experienced real and abundant life.

During this Christmas season, why not look at those on your 'Christmas list' and ask the LORD to give you wisdom on how you can share the greatest gift of all time with them. Jesus came so that we could not only receive eternal life, but also real and abundant life right here, right now. Maybe as you are shopping for something that might bring a smile to someone's face, also be shopping for an opportunity to bring an everlasting hope to their life. Here's an idea: As you wrap their present, maybe insert a note of personal testimony with a special word from God's Word. And do this in love and not condemnation. Remember, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care!

**Dear LORD, help us not to hoard the greatest gift ever given to us. Help us to continually give it away. The life that we received deserves to be shared with others. In Jesus Name, Amen**