

January 1, 2022

I'd like to begin this year with an awesome reminder. Not only did Jesus come to give us eternal life, but also abundant life right here, right now.

**John 10:10, “*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.*” (NIV)**

Now what exactly does it mean to have life to the full? First, this has nothing to do with the length of life or our financial situation in life. This has everything to do with the ultimate quality of our lives. I saw this modeled for me as I grew up on the farm with my Grandparents. We didn't have a lot, but we always had food (my Grandma was the best cook ever!); we had clothes, we had warm beds to sleep in and laughter. Even though we were probably poor by the world's standards, I never knew it. My Grandpa was a hard-working cotton farmer. We lived off of the land and whatever we could raise. He also ran a small herd of cattle that helped us with milk and meat. It wasn't until I was older that I realized there were some people I went to school with that had many more things than I did. They wanted to 'show off' their possessions by making sure others knew about them.

Now I have to admit, there were times that I wished I had some of the things that others had, but I've come to find out that we can chase after all of those things, but they will never bring lasting satisfaction. There is only one way to this, and it is through the Lord Jesus Christ. He said that He came so that we could experience life to the full. Now abundant or full life has nothing to do with long life or a comfortable life; instead, it is the satisfaction and contentment of life with Jesus.

The Greek term for abundant life is **zoen perisson** which means *to not just exist, but to live life in an exceedingly, fulfilling and wonderful experience*. I wonder, are you just existing or are you truly experiencing life, moment by moment? It is the Lord's desire for us to live and not just exist. He has come to give us real life.

**Dear Lord, thank You that You have come to give us life to overflowing abundance. Help us to seek You and You alone. You are the giver of all good things. In Jesus Name, Amen**