

Abundance

Lord, please come and fill my day with your fullness. Amen.

Being Content

JUNE 24, 2017

I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:12, 13

Being content is being fully satisfied without having to have everything you want. Think about a person who has to have everything in the world and a person who does not need to have anything in the world. Who lives the abundant life: the person who lives with a “more than enough” mentality or the person who always lives with “not enough” mentality? Which person lives more abundantly?

Being content creates thankfulness in heart. As this thankfulness flows within you, everything comes alive. All the negative thoughts, complaints and petty criticisms recede from you and you see a bright smile on your face, seeing the brighter side of your life.

In the temptation story, the devil showed Jesus the whole world and asked him to bow to him if he wanted to have it. Jesus simply showed him that he did not need to have the whole world.

Lord, thank you. Help me live day by day being content. Amen.

Blessing

JUNE 24, 2017

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

Genesis 12:1-3

Blessing has the characteristic of flowing (from me to others).

Abundance has the characteristic of overflowing. Abraham was a blessed person because God said all the families of the earth would be blessed in him. The most blessed person is the person who blesses others. That is the meaning of blessing. Being blessed is not about me getting all the blessings but about blessing people around me.

In that sense, Jesus was the most blessed person. He blessed all of us.

Today, I pray that somebody will be blessed through me.

Lord, as you blessed me, help me bless somebody today. Amen.

Being Clean

JULY 20, 2017

While he was speaking, a Pharisee invited him to dine with him; so he went in and took his place at the table. The Pharisee was amazed to see that he did not first wash before dinner. Then the Lord said to him, ‘Now you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? So give for alms those things that are within; and see, everything will be clean for you.

Luke 11:37-41

We ought to live a clean life. When I take a shower, I feel good because I feel clean. When I organize my room and clean it, I feel good because I feel clean.

But real cleanliness is in our heart. This cannot be done by taking a shower or cleaning our room. We have greed within us. Our greed makes us unclean.

The best way to overcome our greed is to share what we have with others. When we share our abundance with others, we become clean.

Let us live today sharing what we have with others.

Lord, thank you for the abundance that you gave me. Let not my abundance make me dirty by creating greed within me. Help me live a clean life sharing my abundance with others. Amen.

Thirst of Our Soul

SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink.” As the scripture has said, “Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

John 7:37-38

Thirst and fullness go together. Without experiencing the thirst, one cannot know what the fullness feels like. Without experiencing the fullness, our thirst will only make our lives dry and barren.

Thirst is our spiritual desire and hunger to be filled. It is longing for God’s presence. It is sad to witness that there is no spiritual thirst and hunger in our modern society. We fill ourselves constantly with what cannot satisfy our deep emptiness. It only creates a false sense of being full; being full without being truly satisfied. As a result, we do not have either true fullness or the thirst. We just feel bloated.

What we need is a spiritual hunger which only God can satisfy.

Lord, fill my deep emptiness with your Spirit. Amen.

A Spring of Water

SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,
14but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be
thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water
gushing up to eternal life.’

John 4:13-14

Our life should have vitality like a spring of water that is gushing up. It
is a life where everything comes alive and our every cell vibrates with
new energy. It is a life where our consciousness is fully awake.

Suffering and pain desensitize our consciousness. In order to endure
our suffering and pain, we numb our consciousness. That is what a
painkiller does. But that is merely enduring through the suffering, not
overcoming it.

When God touches us, we will be healed from our suffering and pain
without having to numb our consciousness. When there is healing, the
vitality of life will be restored. We will have strength and courage
again. We will mount up with wings like eagles.

*Lord, please touch me and heal me from suffering and pain so that I
may live with strength and courage. Amen.*

Having Everything

SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 6:8-10

We need to have confidence in life. The real confidence is the inner confidence. Sometimes, we depend on our performance for having confidence. Also, we depend on other people's evaluation of us for our confidence.

But the true confidence comes from inside. I look like having nothing but I have everything; that is real inner confidence. I may look like nobody, but that is not what is important. The important thing is that I can do all things and I have everything in God who strengthens me.

Lord, help me live day by day with confidence that comes from the strength you have given me. Amen.

Abundance of Life

SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Luke 12:15-21

Wealth can give us great joy. We all need money. Without material possession, our life will be very difficult. People work so hard to make a living.

But it takes wisdom to understand the limit of the wealth we possess. Money cannot do everything for you. Even if we have enough money to live for the rest of our lives without worries, that does not make our life abundant.

That is the limit of wealth. Wise people know this limit. They will not be slaves to their treasures.

It is God who makes our life abundant. When we trust him, and depend on him, our life will be all right. As we experience the abundance in God, I wish that our abundance may be shared with others who are in need.

Thank you, Lord, for blessing me abundantly. Help me not to be a slave to my abundance but instead, help me to share it with others who are in need. Amen.

Three Aspects of the Blessed Life

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

They (Blessed people) are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

Psalm 1:3

There are three aspects of a blessed life as we read today's passage.

First, the blessed life bears fruit in its season. Being fruitful means living an abundant life. Fruits do not exist for its own benefit, but for the benefit of others. Living an abundant life means to live a life that is helpful to others.

Second, their leaves do not wither. There is an active movement of life within the blessed life. It's a life that has vitality and is full of energy.

Third, their life is prosperous. Being prosperous means that everything works out for good. You don't need to force it. It naturally and smoothly follows a path that is opened up for you.

Lord, help me to live a blessed life. Amen.
Lord, help me to live a blessed life. Amen.

One Day and a Thousand Years

OCTOBER 2, 2017

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

2 Peter 3:8

Your life does not get “less” as you get older. Your life gets bigger. Life is not about how much time you have left but how much content you have in your life.

You can have a thousand years of content in your life, living one day. Or, even though you live a thousand years, those years can pass by like one day.

I pray that today is filled with meaningful contents.

Lord, please come and fill my day with your fullness. Amen.

Thanksgiving

OCTOBER 7, 2017

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8:7-10

Fall is a season of harvest. May our lives bear many fruits! God has blessed us abundantly. Let us thank God for always blessing us and meeting our every need.

There are many things to be thankful for and many people to thank. When we live with a thankful heart, we will experience abundance in our lives.

Thank you, God, for meeting our needs every day. Thank you for taking care of us always. Amen.

Food and Clothing

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

For we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

1 Timothy 6:7-8

Food and clothing are necessities in life. If we can be content with basic necessities of life, we can be content with all things in life.

God provides necessities of life. If we can leave them in God's hands, we have nothing to worry about. We can live our daily living with thankfulness.

Lord, thank you for the daily bread. Help me to live today with thanksgiving. Amen.

Humble Life

NOVEMBER 20, 2017

For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Luke 14:11

The desire to exalt oneself reveals one's own poverty. The more we try to exalt ourselves, the more we will experience our own poverty.

Having no desire to exalt yourself points to the fact that you already have abundance in your heart. Let us experience abundance in God.

Lord, thank you for your grace. You came to me when I had nothing and filled me with your abundance. Amen

Fullness with God

NOVEMBER 25, 2017

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:19-20

Fullness is about embracing. When we have the fullness, it allows us to embrace many things. Jesus had the fullness and in that fullness, he embraced all people including sinners

Peace is achieved when we are able to embrace those who are different from us. So, peace comes from fullness. When we are full of God's grace, we can be peace-makers.

Lord, fill me with your fullness. I pray that through my life peace may be achieved. Amen

Live with Passion

JANUARY 20, 2018

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 25:24-30

**Memory Verse: “For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”
(Matthew 25:29)**

“For to all those who have, ...but from those who have nothing...” –
What is it that some have and others don’t have?

I don’t think Jesus was thinking about the amount of talents. It is passion for life. If we have passion for life, our life will become rich. But if we don’t have passion, our life will become poor. Being rich and poor is a quality of life.

Life will not stay the same. Either it will become enriched or impoverished. Let us live life that gets enriched, not impoverished.

Lord, help me to live with passion. Amen.

Reading the "Time"

MARCH 18, 2018

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

John 12:20-25

Memory Verse: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24)

In the Gospel John, Jesus kept saying, "My time has not yet come." But in today's Scripture passage, Jesus finally said that his time came.

Jesus lived his life, reading and waiting for the "time." When the "time" came, the first thing Jesus said was this: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus' life was a life of the single grain.

Lord, thank you for accepting the difficult "time" and becoming a single grain that died and bore much fruit. Amen.

Time With God

ARIL 14, 2018

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour.

No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Psalm 84:10-12

Memory Verse: “O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.” (Psalm 84:12)

There is nothing more precious than being with God. When we sense that God is with us, we feel as if we have everything in the world. A day in God’s courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. Not every day is the same. Not every time is the same. The moment we experience God is the moment that is connected with the eternity. We should live every day like we are living the eternity.

Lord, sanctify my day. Bless today so that I may enjoy your presence every moment. Amen.

Deep Gratitude

ARIL 21, 2018

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:12-17

**Memory Verse: “I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the Lord.” (Psalm 116:17)**

How can we pay back for God’s great mercy and abundant grace? Can we give God our material? Can we give our loyalty? Can we sacrifice our life for God? Nothing. There is nothing that is enough to pay for what God has done for us. We give our thanks and praise God’s name.

We do that sincerely from our heart.

*Lord, I live with deep gratitude for what you have done for me. I will
praise your name for the rest of my life. Amen.*

Open Your Mouth Wide

APRIL 26, 2018

I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it. ‘But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me. So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways! Then I would quickly subdue their enemies, and turn my hand against their foes. Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their doom would last for ever. I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Psalm 81:10-16

Memory Verse: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10)

There is no condition for God’s blessings. God’s blessing is one sided. God’s blessings are not tit for tat. God wants to bless us richly and abundantly without any condition. But we need to have a heart big enough to receive the blessings God pours out upon us. If our heart is too small, we cannot experience God’s abundance. We have to be a bigger person. Our existence has to expand. Open your mouth wide. God will fill it.

Lord, stretch me so that I may be a bigger person. Amen.

Beautiful Life

MAY 10, 2018

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’ Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:7-10

Memory Verse: “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Isaiah 52:7)

How beautiful are the feet of those who reach out to the hopeless!
How beautiful are the ears of those who listen to the helpless! How beautiful are the hands of those who deliver peace! We should live a beautiful life. Beautiful life is sharing beautiful things of life.

Lord, help me to share beautiful things of life. Amen.