

# LIVING IN HIS PRESENCE



Experiencing the Presence of  
God in Your Everyday Life

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**EXCERPT**

## **Introduction**

The cry of every human heart is to live a fulfilled and contented life free of the fear of want and death. In trying to obtain this life of contentment and immortality, we human creatures grasp for many straws that we think will help us find it. Some of the straws we grasp for are money, pleasure, power, prestige, fame, humanitarianism, self-gratification, freedom, accomplishments, security, greatness, friendships, etc. Whatever straw we are holding inevitably breaks. When this happens we reach out for another, and another and another. Before we realize it, our life is over, and instead of having contentment and immortality all we've got is a bunch of broken straws.

There is a person who claimed to be able to provide this life for us. This person is Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said that He came that we might have life and that we might have it more abundantly. The apostle John recorded this statement by Jesus in John 10:10. It reads, The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. The Greek word that John used for life in this verse is "zoe ." This word refers to the kind of life that comes only from God. It is the eternal life of God breathed into us so that we might live forever with Him.

Jesus said that He could and would give this eternal life to all who would come to Him. He can do this because He has this life within Himself and desires to share it with us. Jesus said this is an abundant life.

Whenever we come to Jesus, He shares this life with us by giving us the Holy Spirit of God. Thus it is through the Holy Spirit that we receive and become partakers of the very life of God Himself. When this God-kind of life controls us, we find fulfillment, contentment and freedom from the fear of want and death. We often speak of this as "life in the Spirit."

Jesus said this life in the Spirit is a life that He abundantly shares. All of us want to live a life of abundance but we try to achieve this with our own wisdom, in our own way and in our own might. While some can accumulate great material wealth, true well-being and prosperity of the soul only comes from God.

The Greek word translated into English as abundantly means superabundance, excessive, overflowing, surplus, over and above, more than enough, extraordinary, beyond all that we could ask or think. It is the life of God Himself living in us, providing for us and ministering through us.

As we give ourselves to God, He gives Himself to us. His life in us is the source of all blessings. Believers don't get "something from God," we get God who is the something. He is all that we need and want.

## **Abundance in Life and Godliness**

While Satan is like a thief who desires to rob us of God's blessings, God is a good God who desires to bless His children with abundance in every area of our lives. He desires to bless

us spiritually with His power, mentally and emotionally with His presence, and physically with health and provisions for life.

While our priority is to seek God and not the things He can give us, the very act of seeking God and putting Him first in our lives results in His blessings in our lives. His Zoe life in us is the blessing. Yielding to His life and rule in us produces the abundance in all areas of our lives.

As we seek the One who blesses and not the blessing, His blessing of life and godliness flows out of Himself to us in all areas of our lives. We don't have to seek the blessings. They come automatically as we seek Him.

Peter wrote, Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:2-4).

Peter says that God has given to us blessings that pertain to both life and godliness. This means that God cares about all areas of our lives, the physical and material as well as the spiritual. While it is easy to focus on the things that pertain to life (health and wealth) rather than those that pertain to godliness, God did not create us to live poor, defeated, sickly lives. He made us to live abundant lives. Peter notes that this abundant life comes through the knowledge of (intimacy) with God. This is a consistent message throughout the Scriptures.

King David was so overwhelmed with the goodness of God, he expressed his heart with these words of praise Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (Psalm 103:105). The abundant life in the Spirit enables us to live godly lives with authority, power and victory over sin, Satan and eventually death itself. It is an overcoming life. This is just the kind of life for which we are all looking. God's life is not like the broken straws of the world. And He will share it with anyone and everyone who will come to Him through Jesus as Lord, the promised Messiah to the Jews and Savior to the Gentiles.

Not only do we need God's spiritual blessings, we certainly need His blessings that pertain to life, blessings of finances and health. God delights to give us these blessings. We read the following, Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favors my righteous cause; and let them say continually, 'Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant' (Psalm 35:27).

The Hebrew word translated as prosperity means much more than money. It also means safety, wellness, happiness, healthiness, and peacefulness. It is the fullest meaning of "shalom." The point is that God sees us as whole beings. He doesn't see us as dual beings with a separation of the spiritual and physical. His spiritual blessings and the blessings of life all flow from His Zoe life in us.

The Lord instructed and encouraged Joshua with these words, This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success (Joshua 1:8).

We read a similar promise to the godly in the Psalms, Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper (Psalm 1:1-3).

When we live under His rule, God promises these blessings in abundance. Jesus said, Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33).

Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi who gave out of their need, And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ (Messiah) Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

To those who walk with God and give generously to others with a good eye, God's word says, Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers (3 John 1:2).

As we give generously to others, God promises to bless us in return, Give and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put in your bosom. For with the same measure that you use it, it will be measured back to you (Luke 6:38).

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