

The Real 'Abundant Life' of John 10:10 "Context Is King"

I hope you have your Bible in hand and a comfortable place to sit down and follow along. For the time being, during this whole coronavirus mess, this is how we will do church. Keep in mind that we are the church, not this building. It's okay to call this building a church as long as we remember that the church is actually the body of Christ, made up of all who are in Him.

Let me ask you something, **"Are you living the 'abundant life?'"** Are you not sure what the abundant life is? Good. Most people don't know what it is and if you've read all the garbage I've read over the last 46 years that purportedly taught what the abundant life is, then you may be experiencing discouragement and disappointment at this time. I'm not. I never bought into the lie the Word of Faith and the Charismatic Movements laid out as the abundant life in the first place. To the likes of the late Oral Roberts and Kenneth Hagin and Charles Capps, and nowadays the Copelands and Creflo Dollar the abundant life meant an abundant bank account, for them, not necessarily their dupes. Their philosophy of ministry was and still is this, **"We get our money from you, you get your money from God."** And as egregious as their sins were and the sins of their spiritual children in our day are, millions of people still buy into the lie that God wants everyone to be filthy, stinking wealthy. I posted a video from Jesse Duplantis this week on two recent sermons that jackleg taped from his church near New Orleans where he begs his suffering dupes to send him their money.

Take your Bible and turn to the gospel of John to the only verse in the entirety of the word of God where God speaks of what has been seriously misinterpreted as the abundant life. I want to call your attention to the wording found in the Bible, and it isn't "the abundant life."

^{NAU} **John 10:10** *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (Jn. 10:10 NAU)*

CONTEXT: In order to understand what this verse is really saying, it's essential that we put it in its Biblical context. When it comes to interpreting Scripture, the Spirit is King and context His queen. And to do that, go to John chapter 9 and v.³⁹ *And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."*

⁴⁰ *Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"*

⁴¹ *Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but since you say, 'We see,' your sin remains. (Jn. 9:39-41 NAU)*

So, to whom was Jesus speaking? The Pharisees. They're the thief in v.10, not Satan. If you miss that then you have missed His audience throughout this entire chapter. Whereas, on the other hand, if you know that then the rest of chapter 10 makes more sense.

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Now that's how Jesus saw what the Pharisees said. They were upset by what they rightly perceived as the Lord's judgment that these men were blind said it all. But it's a little difficult for our western minds to understand what the Lord was saying in our v.39. I mean, listen to that verse again, .³⁹ *And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, and this is His two-fold judgment, **so that** those who do not see may see, that's judgment number one, and that those who see may become blind,"* that's judgment number two. And what Jesus is doing here is telling the Pharisees, the religious elite of the Lord's day, that because they claim to be righteous by their own good deeds, there by claiming to see,

⁴⁰ *Those of the Pharisees who were with Him heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"*

⁴¹ *Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; in other words, if you truly didn't know any better I wouldn't hold you accountable for your sins, 'you would have no sin.' but since you say,*

'We see,' your sin remains. "You're telling me that you're not blind therefore you are accountable for every sin you have ever committed and will ever commit. And to make matters worse, you're calling God a liar. If you say you have no sin and you're not a sinner, God's truth is not in you and you're making God the liar." Read this, ⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. (1 Jn. 1:5-10 NAU)

Now, keep in mind that Jesus was confronting the false teachers of His day who were denying their sinfulness. Here are the words of a false teacher of our day, Joyce Meyer, and what she said is typical of the Word of Faith Movement: "I am not poor, I am not miserable, and I am not a sinner. That is a lie from the pit of hell. That is what I were and if I still was then Jesus died in vain. I didn't stop sinnin' until I finally got it through my thick head I wasn't a sinner anymore."

Seriously, "that is a lie from the pit of hell?" She's saying blatantly and in public that God is a liar from the pit of hell. ⁸ *If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.*

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us. (1 Jn. 1:5-10 NAU) That, beloved, is the voice of a false shepherd, which we recognize as such and will not follow.

This is an expansion of what Jesus said in the gospel of John, 9:39-41.

What is life and that more abundantly?

First, "It is life everlasting for His sheep."

This is John 10:10b, ^{NAU} **John 10:10** ...*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (Jn. 10:10 NAU)*

It's not for you, Pharisees and hypocrites. You have misled the sheep of Israel into believing that they can only inherit the kingdom of heaven by being as righteous as you are. You live to steal and kill and destroy your dupes, My sheep. I came to give them life. And that life is everlasting life, eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him might not perish, but have everlasting life."

Second, "It is life in the Spirit."

⁶³ *"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*

⁶⁴ *"But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.*

⁶⁵ *And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father." (Jn. 6:63-65 NAU)*

You've heard me say a dozen times, "The Christian life is nothing if not life in the Spirit."

Our life in Christ began in the Spirit. Gal. 3:² *This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you receive the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?*

³ *Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? (Gal. 3:2-3 NAU)*

Our life in Christ is led by the Spirit. Rom. 8: ¹⁴ *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom. 8:14 NAU)*

Our life in Christ is strengthened and empowered by the Spirit. ¹⁶ *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, (Eph. 3:16 NAU)*

Our life in Christ is enhanced by the gifts of the Spirit. ⁴ *Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*

⁵ *And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord.*

⁶ *There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons.*

⁷ *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

(1 Cor. 12:4-7 NAU)

Our life in Christ has been blessed by every heavenly blessing.

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (Eph. 1:3 NAU)*

And finally, **the life and that more abundantly Jesus gives His sheep means we will not and do not listen to the voices of false teachers and false prophets and false apostles** (there are no apostles today). And if you remember from this earlier, it's what this passage is all about. By voice, the word refers to their teachings, etc.. ⁴ *"When he puts forth all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

⁵ *"A stranger they simply will not follow, but will flee from him, because they do not know the voice of strangers." (Jn. 10:4-5 NAU)*

For those who are in Christ, beloved, that is a guarantee. In the Greek text of John 10 and v.5, there is a double negative which makes it emphatic and a guarantee. We can read it like this, ⁵ *"A stranger they*

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simply will not follow or, “a stranger they will absolutely not in anyway follow.”

What does that tell us about the millions who follow the likes of Joyce Meyer and Kenneth Copeland and Jesse Duplantis and T.D. Jakes and Steven Furtick and Creflo Dollar?