



Footprints of Generosity

WHAT IS ABUNDANCE?

When I think of abundance, I think of more than enough. I think of a container with its contents spilling out because it cannot contain them. I think of a fruit tree loaded down with fruit until its branches touch the ground.

In John 10:10, Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Does that mean Jesus came so that we can all have a long life, so that we can all be rich, so that we will never want for a thing? Abundance refers to the quality of life God wants for us. Scripture gives many examples of what the abundant life looks like.

At the wedding at Cana (John 2) when Jesus turns the water into wine, it isn't just any wine. It is the best wine, which is significant because he provides it at a time when hosts normally would serve the cheap wine. Abundance means following God's direction which leads us on the very best path for us.

In Exodus 16, when Moses was leading the Israelites in the wilderness, they were hungry and grumbled against God who provided enough manna to fill every need. It is striking that "those who gathered much had nothing left over, and those who gathered little had no shortage (v.18). Abundance means following God who always knows how much we need and provides accordingly.

John 10: 9-10

9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Jesus said, "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture." (John 10:9) Abundance means following God, who will always guide us through whatever situation we find ourselves in and provide for us on the journey.

God's abundance teaches us that we need not fear being generous and abundant in our giving. Whether we think we have more than enough, whether we believe our coffers are overflowing, we are free to give according to God's leading. We are free because God is trustworthy and never leaves us. We are free because God wants "to have life, and have it abundantly."

***Nurturing generous disciples
to serve as the
hands and feet of Christ***



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