

Plumstead Bible Conference 2012

Part 2

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[00:00:00] Dear brothers, the Lord put on my heart to speak about one verse that the Lord mentioned in John 10, verse 10.

It's a well-known verse by everyone here.

Gospel of John, chapter 10, verse 10.

The Lord says, The thief comes not but for to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

I will repeat the second half of the verse. I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.

[00:01:11] What is the abundant life?

I am occupied to speak in few thoughts about the abundant life.

First of all, let us begin by asking ourselves, what is the difference between life and abundant life? Christ, Son of God, came into earth, the Word was made flesh, He lived among us, He died on the cross, He was buried, He rose again, and He is glorified on the right hand of God. Why? First of all, to give us life, eternal life. [00:02:01] But He calls this life, He gives it a certain qualification.

He calls it that they may have the life abundantly. Abundant life, rich life.

This is the portion of every one of us here.

If you have accepted Christ and you have experienced the wonderful person coming into your life, you have taken His life and you are called to enjoy and to practice the abundant life.

Why now we as believers in the new dispensation, the age of grace, why are we allowed to experience the abundant life?

[00:03:05] Because redemption was accomplished, the blood was shed, Christ is glorified, and the Holy Spirit was sent to dwell in our hearts.

And through the indwelling of the Spirit, every believer, small or old, can enjoy the abundant life.

What are the manifestations of the abundant life in the heart of, in the life, I mean, of every believer? First of all, let us go to John 4. Most of us know how the Lord went to the Samaritan woman and told her in verse 13, [00:04:18] Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinks of this water shall thirst again, but whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give shall never thirst. But the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Here is a woman who was suffering from deep thirst. She was looking for something to quench her thirst. She was looking into the lusts, into the world. [00:05:03] And Christ came to her and offered something different that the world can never offer.

He offered her a sort of water, the living water.

And he says here, whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give. What is the water, Lord? If we ask the Lord this evening about what you are speaking, most of us know from studying the Bible that here the Lord Jesus is speaking about a gift that he is giving to everyone who accepts him. He is speaking about the Holy Spirit. And we can enjoy the abundant life and we can show the abundant life practically in our lives through the Holy Spirit. [00:06:05] Look with me here to three facts that the Lord mentioned in this verse, verse 14. First one, whosoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. The water that I shall give him shall be in him. First of all, the water shall be in him.

What's the meaning? The gift, the Holy Spirit is now indwelling, indwelling in everyone of us. And this is an important fact to know, not only to know mentally, but to have it before our eyes every day. The Holy Spirit, a divine person, is indwelling me. We know in the Old Testament he never indwelt anyone. But now he is not making visits or coming upon, but he is by his person, he is indwelling me and you. [00:07:10] Let us go deep into this fact because it has a practical effect. So the first thing, the water shall be in him. Two, this water shall be like a well or a fountain of water.

What's the meaning? By the Holy Spirit indwelling us, we can enjoy.

We can enjoy heavenly things. We can enjoy fellowship with our Father. We can enjoy all what God is, if I can put it like this. We can enjoy God.

We can enjoy him. We can enjoy his love. We can have communion with him. And we can worship him.

[00:08:02] This is abundant life.

At home, you can go and kneel down at your room and open the Word of God and commune with the Father. And with the Holy Spirit, you can call him Abba, Father. All of us, I think, know that Abba, the Aramaic word, Father, Per, Pater, in every version it is translated like the language. Why Paul used the two words?

Because the Lord Jesus, when he was here on earth in the Garden of Gethsemane, he addressed

the Father and he told him Abba, Father. And by the Spirit now, every one of us, we are not afraid to approach God. And we come to him as Father. [00:09:03] And we, we commune with him as Abba, Father.

Intimacy. Abba is the word of intimacy at home. Abba, intimacy. This is abundant life. We are not called just to believe on the Lord, just to know and to study, which is very good. But we are called to rich life, rich life, which is manifested, first of all, in this sort of fellowship and worship. When we worship together, when we worship around the table of the Lord every Sunday, and when we worship even when we are alone. This is by the Holy Spirit. And then the Lord says, the one who drinks of this water shall never thirst. But let me pause here and ask myself and my brother, to be honest, do we sometimes, as believers, thirst? [00:10:09] Practically we say, yes.

Sometimes we understand this verse as if it is only for non-believers. No, this is a principle. Christ puts a principle. If you try to get your satisfaction from things of the world, you will end up being empty. But if we are in fellowship with the Father, what is the outcome? We are satisfied. What a word.

Shall never thirst.

Shall never thirst.

People around us are thirsty. Sometimes we, as true Christians, are thirsty, but here is the promise for every one of us. This is the first manifestation of the abundant life. [00:11:04] Life of fellowship and worship. The second manifestation, let us go to John 7. The well-known verses 37 to 39.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, feast of tabernacles, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirsts, let him come unto me and drink.

He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

[00:12:04] But this speak he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive. For the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because that Jesus was not yet glorified. And here, it's very clear that when Christ spoke about water, it means the Holy Spirit. It is not something that we try to figure, but it's clear in the word. Here the Lord says, if any man thirsts, he is calling the second time for those who feel thirsty.

But there is a difference between John 4 and John 7. In John 4, what is the cause of thirst? The lusts of the world. In John 7, what is the cause of the thirst? The festivals of religious things.

[00:13:01] The Jews were celebrating the feast of tabernacles, but for seven days they were not satisfied. And at the eighth day, Christ stood and cried. Not often we read this, cried.

He cried loudly. He has a call for everyone. If any man thirsts, let him come unto me and drink.

This applies to us too.

We came to him when we felt that we need him as a savior. And we have to come to him daily.

Do you remember Peter in his first epistle, chapter 1? Pardon me, chapter 2, he says about Christ at the stone, the living stone. He says, to whom you come.

[00:14:02] Not only you have come, yes, you have come at the beginning. And you come, you come always.

We have to drink from the Lord every day to quench our thirst. And what is the result? He says here, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

A life of testimony before the world.

So the first thing, life of communion, John 4. Life of fellowship, life of worship, life of satisfaction. But not only that aspect, we have another aspect. We have life of testimony.

Yes, the Lord put us, every one of us in a place. Why? Through the Spirit.

[00:15:01] We have to testify for him.

And how he describes the testimony, the personal testimony, he describes it in this term. Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

It means not only to accept the Holy Spirit and he is indwelling us, but to give him liberty.

Let me ask myself and be honest, my brothers and sisters. Is this the case with me always?

That out of my being, inner being, the Lord didn't say out of his head comes rivers of living water. But out of his belly.

Sometimes we know things about Christ, about the life that we have in him, about the role of the Holy Spirit. [00:16:07] But we are dry.

Or the rivers are not flowing.

There is something missing. And I think it is to be in contact with him. To be in fellowship with him. To be in, if you allow me, to be in touch with him. Am I in touch with the Lord all the day long? All the day?

I'm in touch with him? At work, study, eating, driving the car, going on a means of transportation, going from here and there. Am I in contact with him? Am I drinking of him?

If that is the case, rivers of living water shall flow.

[00:17:01] May we look to some examples in the book of Acts about people like us from whom rivers of living water have run. For example, in Acts 4, verse 33.

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

We have two great things here. Great power, it's about the power of the Spirit. And then, and great grace was upon them all.

[00:18:02] Another incident, if we go to Acts 13, verse 52.

Acts 13, verse 52.

The last verse.

Paul was in the city of Antioch in Pisidia. And he was opposed by the Jews. And he was compelled to leave. And he left disciples behind him. And you can imagine, new believers, Paul, their beloved apostle, was obliged to leave.

What happened with them? Naturally, they should have been sad. But what happened?

What the scripture says, verse 52. [00:19:02] And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Ghost.

Many times when I read this verse, I say, Lord, forgive us. In our meetings, or in our families, or in our personal lives, we are not filled with joy. Why? We are not filled with the Holy Spirit. We know about the filling. We know about the joy. But there is something obstructing the flow of the living waters.

Before leaving this point, we saw how the Lord Jesus said in John 7, verse 38.

He that believes on me as the scripture has said. Where the scripture has said. [00:20:01] Going to the Old Testament, we don't find a specific portion where the scripture has said these words. But the meaning here, that the scripture has mentioned in the Old Testament, has mentioned some figures.

And one of these figures is found in Ezekiel 47. I will not read, but some of us know.

Some of us know that. I have to use this only. I hope it will not respond the same way like this. Some of us know that in Ezekiel 47, we find one of the descriptions of the Millennial Temple. And we read there that from the Millennial Temple will flow literal water. Literal water.

[00:21:01] And it says in Ezekiel 47, verse 9. That this living, this water is living water. Where? Why?

Because wherever the water goes, everything that comes in contact with the water will be alive. I will read the verse. Ezekiel 47, verse 9. And it shall come to pass that everything that lives, which moves, withersoever the rivers shall come, shall live. So the water is carrying life.

What is the cause?

It is the Millennial Temple. Who is dwelling there in the Millennial?

If we want to know, the last verse in chapter 48. He says, and the name of the city from that day shall be, the Lord is there. [00:22:01] So, in the city the Lord is dwelling. From the temple waters are coming. And these waters are bringing life. We don't have to wait till the Millennium. But we experience these things now spiritually. The Lord has no city on earth, but has His indwelling by the Spirit in every one

of us. Do we believe this? In every one of us. And as much as I give Him liberty in my life, and I don't grieve the Holy Spirit, wherever the Lord leads me, I will be a channel of living water.

I will be a channel of life, spiritual life, to others. So, we saw first manifestation, second manifestation. Let me go to the third manifestation of the rich life, the abundant life. This we find in the last words of the Lord Jesus, the last discourse of the Lord Jesus. [00:23:06] We shall dwell a little bit upon this. John 14, we know that the last words of the Lord before the cross are mentioned in John 14, 15, 16. And then in John 17, He prayed to the Father. In John 14, there is a verse that shocks us.

And to tell you the truth, many times I come across this verse.

I pray, Lord, can it be done even now in our age?

Let us read it.

Verse 12.

John 14, 12.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believes on me, the works that I do, shall he do also.

[00:24:13] And greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father.

Of course, first of all, we see this in the book of Acts, in the works done by the Spirit in the disciples.

Yes, they have done the same work. Here we are not speaking about miracles.

Let us beware of this.

Because some people take this verse and build upon it wrong teaching. We are not speaking about miracles. We are not speaking about signs. [00:25:01] We are speaking about works. Works of mercy.

Works of blessing to others.

Works of preaching.

So, the Lord here says, he that believes on me, the works that I do, shall he do also.

And greater works.

The only condition, he that believes on me. And as we mentioned in the Bible study, he is not speaking about to believe once, but it is a steady and continuous state. He that believes on me, the works that I do, shall he do also.

And greater works.

Why Lord, greater works?

The point, because he is going to the Father. [00:26:05] He is sending the Holy Spirit. And through his Holy Spirit, he will be in us and doing works through us.

Do we have examples in the word of God? Yes. For example, Peter, Acts 2, in one sermon, through the effect and the power of the Holy Spirit. How many were converted? Three thousand.

This didn't happen with our Lord when he was on earth. Another example.

Christ, when he was on earth, scarcely he went out of Palestine. And he says, in Luke 12, I am straightened, because he has a work to complete. He was straightened. [00:27:01] But when you read about the labors of Paul, for example, Romans 15, he says, Verse 19, the second half of the verse, So that from Jerusalem and round about unto Illyricum, near Spain, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to the west of Europe.

How? By the power of the Spirit.

We are not all called to be Peter or to be Paul. But every one of us is called by the Spirit in him to do works for the Lord.

[00:28:04] Dear brothers, tomorrow Lord is willing, if he will wait, I will speak to you about a sister, all of you know, a beloved sister from Europe. Through her, the Lord has done in Egypt marvelous work. She was a faithful one. She continued believing on him.

And this promise was fulfilled in her.

She never stood and gave a sermon, even among sisters. But she has done works.

And I urge myself and I urge my brothers.

We need in these days to put into practice what we are taught of. We have to multiply works for the glory of the Lord.

[00:29:05] And with the works, there is another thing linked with it. Verse 13, verse 12, the works.

Verse 13, he says, and don't forget the and. It links 13 with 12. And in relation with the works.

Whatsoever you shall ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. What is asking in his name? Of course, it is not to finish the prayer. It is not just to finish the prayer saying, in the name of the Lord Jesus we pray. This is not wrong. But what's the meaning here? In my name means in my place.

I have left you, as if the Lord is saying, I have left you my representatives. [00:30:07] You are my representatives here. Come to the Father with my interests.

You will have the answers. What a high privilege.

We are put on a level like the Son of God when he was here. He was always about his Father's business. He was praying for the glory of the Father. Do you remember John 11 when he prayed

near the tomb of Lazarus? And he said, Father, I pray, not for me, that your name be glorified. Now, are we praying in the same way?

That the name of the Father, through his Son, may be glorified in our testimony, in our family lives, in our personal lives. [00:31:06] These requests or these prayers, the Lord assures us, whatever you shall ask in my name. In my name.

As my representative, being in my place on earth, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Do you not see with me that this is a rich life? A rich life.

Abundant life.

Another of the manifestations. We have seen so far three things. Life of fellowship. Living water rising up.

Life of testimony.

Rivers of living water going out. Life of works and answered prayers. Now, let us come to another thing, another manifestation. [00:32:03] In John, the same chapter, John 14, verse 21.

This verse was repeated this afternoon in the Bible study. He that has my commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves me. Obedience. And he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him.

And, in verse 23, we find something parallel, but a little bit different. Jesus answered and said unto him, unto Judah, not the Iscariot. If a man loves me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him. [00:33:02] What is the meaning of these two things, first of all? If we love the Lord, we keep his commandments, we are loved by the Father. What is the meaning, we are loved by the Father? We experience in our daily lives special dealings from the Father. I think some of us have experienced it. Whenever the Lord Jesus is precious to you, and his word is precious to you, and you are delighted to obey him, you experience the nearness of the Father, not only that. And, let me tell you, you will have some visits from the Son. The Son will manifest himself to you. We find instances like this, for example, in the life of Paul. Book of Acts, many times we read that the Lord appeared to Paul. [00:34:01] The Lord, I'm not speaking, of course, about, lest anyone think I'm speaking about having the Lord appearing, literally, no. But Paul has the Lord appearing to him, strengthening him. John, in the island of Patmos, the Lord appeared to him, strengthening him. And if we love the Lord, the Lord will strengthen us. Maybe in a verse, maybe in the providence care of us, maybe in a meeting, he will manifest himself.

Not only that, but he says in verse 23, We will come unto him, the Father and the Son, and who is dwelling already? The Spirit.

The Father will come, the Son will come, the Spirit is already there, so Heaven will be there. [00:35:07] What is Heaven?

What is Heaven?

It is the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. So, the Father will come, the Son will

come, and already the Spirit is there. Can we imagine how this would be?

This is an abundant life.

Then, let me go to another manifestation, chapter 15. Maybe this is the fifth manifestation. Verse 11.

These things have I spoken unto you. Pardon me, verse 8. [00:36:02] Herein is my Father glorified.

In what?

That ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples.

We know that the Lord is speaking in this section, chapter 15, verses 1 to 14, about fruit bearing. He is the vine.

We are branches in Him.

We are exhorted to abide. And what is the outcome? Fruit bearing. What is fruit bearing?

For instance, we read in the New Testament about many types of fruits. We read about here, this fruit bearing, which is Galatians 5, 22, and 23. It is the fruit of the Spirit. Or, simply, it is the reproduction of the life of Christ in every one of us. [00:37:05] If we abide in Him, His sap, the sap which is in the vine, goes to the branches and manifests itself in the grapes.

We have already the life of Christ. We have His Spirit in us. And through this, His life is flowing. And it shall be shown in His lovely character.

Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, self-control, all these things.

This is the fruit of the Spirit. And this is the fruit that the Lord means here. And we have another fruit. For example, in Hebrews 13, we read about fruit of our lips, the sacrifice of praise. [00:38:06] We have also in Colossians 1, fruitful in every good work.

Many aspects of fruits.

But here, specially, precisely, He is mentioning the reproducing of His life.

Is it not a privilege, brothers? Maybe some of you have read this story about one of the missionaries that went to a certain place in Africa. He was not gifted about speaking. But he lived maybe 10 or more years among the people there.

And he left after this.

And another one came. And he was eloquent. He spoke about Christ. [00:39:01] He described Christ. And then one of these poor people there came and said, Well, the person that you speak about, Jesus Christ, has visited us here. He was here.

And the new missionary said, He visited you? Yeah, we have seen this man.

And he asked, How? He said, Before you came, there was another one here. And the thing that you are describing now, we have seen. What a fruit.

Christ was there in this area.

Even if our brother was not eloquent in speaking. But the fruit came out.

This is abundant life.

Christ may be seen in me and in you. [00:40:01] Sixth manifestation. We are sharing Christ in his personal peace.

And his personal joy.

And tomorrow in his personal glory. Things that belong to him personally.

Through the Spirit. We are called now to experience his peace. You know the verse. John 14. 27. I think all of us know this. Peace I leave with you. This is peace with God. Through the work on the cross.

My peace I give unto you. My peace.

Peter in the prison.

Ask him.

[00:41:01] Peter, tomorrow you will be executed. And the soldiers are around you now.

And the chains in your hand. What are you doing? He is saying, I am sleeping. Was he sleeping lightly or deep sleep? I think deep. Because when the angel came. He kicked him in his side. He was sleeping. Why? He has a promise from the Lord. That he will not die before being an aged one. He enjoyed the peace of Christ.

Can I enjoy this peace? I pray.

I confess that I am not enjoying it much. But I pray. Why Christ has his peace all over his life here?

Because he committed himself into the hands of the father. And when they were in the ship crossing the lake. [00:42:02] He was at the end sleeping.

We have this privilege. Brothers and sisters. We live in a world full of turmoil. And people now are suffering from anxiety. Depression. All this stuff. Of course you read and you know. But we who have the abundant life. Christ came.

Died. Has been risen.

Is glorified. That we enjoy the abundant life.

Having his peace. And what else? Enjoying his joy. His joy.

His personal joy. We read this three times in the last words of the Lord. Three times about his joy. About the full joy.

First time. John 15, 11.

These things have I spoken unto you that my joy. [00:43:03] My joy.

Might remain in you. And that your joy might be full. He begins with my joy. And then your joy might be full.

Chapter 16.

Verse 24.

He links it with prayer.

Hitherto have you asked nothing in my name. Ask. And you shall receive that your joy may be full. Chapter 17.

Verse 13.

He is praying to the Father.

And now come I to thee. And these things I speak in the world. That they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. What is his joy?

It is a type of joy that is not depending on things of the world.

[00:44:06] Paul in Philippians. He is bubbling with joy. If I can say this. He is full of joy.

You know that the word joy and its derivatives in Philippi is mentioned about 16 times. Though he was in prison.

He was joyful. And he was exhorting his brethren to be joyful. What a testimony to the abundant life.

We are not sad.

No. We are joyful.

We are joyful.

It is not an artificial gladness. It's a deep joy.

Springing from the spirit inside us. Finally.

The seventh manifestation. We find it at the end of chapter 16. [00:45:03] And it has been mentioned at

the end of our Bible study. But let me just read. The manifestation of the abundant life is to share the Lord in his victory over the world. We are victorious like him. How? Let us look at this. Chapter 16 verses 32 and 33.

Behold the hour comes.

He is now come.

That he shall be scattered. Every man to his own.

And shall leave me alone.

And yet I am not alone.

Because the Father is with me.

These things I have spoken unto you. That in me you might have peace.

[00:46:04] In the world you shall have tribulation. But be of good cheer.

I have overcome the world. In what aspect Lord you have overcome the world? He has overcome his opposition.

His persecution.

His enmity.

And if we feel that the world is increasing in his hatred to believers.

Especially those who have testimony. And whose the life of Christ is shining in them. Let us be of good cheer.

Christ has overcome.

And when we join the end of chapter 16 with the beginning of chapter 17. You find because he triumphed over the world. He overcome. In chapter 17 verse 1. [00:47:01] He lifted his eyes up. And everyone who overcome.

You can lift your eyes up. And enjoy.

Enjoy the presence of the Father. May the Lord help us. We are called to this rich life.

To this abundant life. Amen.