



ABUNDANT LIFE FOR YOUR SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

*Have and Enjoy Life, and Have It in
Abundance to the Full, Till It Overflows*

TREAVOR BARTLEY

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FOREWORD and ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The title of this book obviously caught your attention, let me tell you why I wrote it. This book has been designed to show how God wants His people to enjoy life to the full with overflowing abundance in every area of life. Are you living in abundance? Jesus said in John 10:10b “I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).” Does your life reflect this truth or are you like many others and wish this was true in your life?

My goal is to take you on a journey to obtain the knowledge necessary for you to understand the biblical perspective on abundance and prosperity and to comprehend how the principle of obedience to God facilitates abundant living. The original title was ‘Understanding the life of abundance so you may prosper in your spirit, soul and body,’ but everyone thought that was too long. So now it is just called ‘Abundant Life’, have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance to the full, till it overflows.

By using the Bible and a very comprehensive study through the Scriptures, I will attempt to clarify what I believe to be the confusion about the subjects of abundance and prosperity. Too many times people think it is all about money, but Bible Prosperity is about much more than that. For this reason, I have written the scriptures out in full; I have not just written a scripture and verse for the reader to look up. This enables you to read this book anywhere at any time.

Unfortunately, too many Christians are complacent and feel it is sufficient to know only what the church they attend preaches and teaches. Hopefully, through the words, scriptures and the manner in which I present this information to you, it will no longer be excusable to live with people’s ideas, traditions or stories to satisfy the one who claims to be a Christian. We are not getting anywhere spiritually if we are not studying for ourselves and making a distinction between what is said and what is written. For this reason, I would like to encourage you to read all the scriptures through, allowing them to minister to you. In other words, don’t skip over the scriptures, if you don’t read them you will miss out on the whole message.

The Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 2:15, that we are to study for ourselves so that we can present our bodies to God approved, a worker who has no cause to be ashamed. We are to analyse correctly and accurately study the Word of truth. I hope that you get as much out of this book as I did in putting it together

I would also like to say, thank you to my wife Josephine and all those who helped me with the proofreading. Also for all my wife’s thought provoking questions and suggestions as she helped me bring this book to completion. Where would we be without the support of our wives? Also for her inspiration and patience while I spent many days and nights putting all this information together, and for being beside me and supporting me as we serve our Lord and Saviour together.

Acts 2:38, AMP

Peter answered them, Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I have been reluctant to write about the subjects of abundance and prosperity for two reasons.

One is because the ‘revelation’ is still unfolding and our understanding still growing. Anything published may soon become outdated. Yet, I now feel compelled by the Spirit of God to write this information down, because the time is short, and the days are surely revealing the birth pains of the earth, crying out for the revealing of the son’s of God.

The second is when you commit something to paper in some systematic way it can sound narrow, binding or legalistic. This subject is at the forefront of people’s minds at the moment and the day we live in is truly a trying time for the truth about prosperity.

When we are looking at finances, and we start talking about money many walls go up. A typical quote people give me is this, “money is the root of all kinds of evil”, this shows me how much of the scriptures this person does ‘not’ know.

I wish to bring to your attention, the correct quote which is found in 1 Timothy 6:10 and it say’s - *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”*. Notice it is not money, but the love of money, in other words, making money your god is a root of all kinds of evil.

I feel inadequate for the task, and yet find I am carrying a burden of the Spirit about something which, after having been sent on many occasions to preach around the world, must be put to paper. I hope this message will bear much fruit to the honour of Christ Jesus my Lord.

This book has been written without legalism being intended, and the exercise of authority is to be liberating, never controlling. I would ask for the best possible intention to be applied in the light of this topic.

After saying all that I hope you enjoy the journey you are about to embark on. I always look forward to comments and remarks so feel free to email me yours.

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A BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE ON ABUNDANT



What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word “abundance?” The dictionary definition of the word abundance is ‘a very large quantity of something.’

One thing I think is lacking in our world today is a balanced understanding of abundance and what it means for the way we live, move and have our being.

While we can apply the concept of abundance to many aspects of our lives. I believe true abundance is not based on what you can obtain materially or by how much money you have, as much as it should be based on living a truly happy, fulfilled and blessed life. A truly abundant person does not allow external events or situations, whether good or bad to add or subtract from their happiness and fulfilment of life. No one can be truly happy all the time, but when you are actually living an abundant life, you live with balance, hopefulness, and unlimited possibility.

Abundance is a way of thinking and living. Life delivers a continually changing set of circumstances. Living in a balanced state of abundance can give you a constant source of stability that isn’t based on external things, but you must change your perspective and believe in all the potential that lies within your reach. Abundance is a state of being, not an acquired position. It is about what brings you joy and fulfilment, not about what you possess.

**The pursuit of “more,” which is so common in our society,
is not the road to abundance.**

Money can, no doubt, make life more comfortable, but it does not buy happiness, as the saying goes. The obsessive pursuit of wealth can create an imbalance that stands in the way of the kind of abundance that is genuine and eternal. A life of abundance that concentrates on one thing is destined to create discontent, dissatisfaction, and disappointment.

You must look at every aspect of your life. Pursuing money without bringing the realisation of balance to abundance in everything you possess will ultimately be a fleeting and empty experience. To understand abundance and how it can be yours, you have to be aware of how the mindset of lack may be playing a significant role in the outworking reality which is your life today. The mindset of lack allows us to focus on abundance in the negative, thinking that there’s an abundance of shortage or scarcity of good things in life, and then we tend to create fear around that idealism.

Operating from a place of lack allows the dysfunction of negativity to steal the truth of abundance in one's life and hinders one's view and perspective toward an abundance of hopelessness and futility. We need to begin to identify how our fearful thoughts, actions, and behaviour may be driven by a belief that says “there’s not enough for me, I am not worth it.”

The only way you can change that type of belief system is by having some faith in your ability to know the truth and allow the truth to set you free, then make a conscious effort to change your actions and behaviour to match the outcome you desire in line with the Word of God.

Authentic Abundance comes when you have balanced everything in your life. That includes giving away what you have too much of. Here are some good examples; If you have a lot of love but not enough money, what should you give away? ‘Love.’ Do you have more money than other things in life? Give away some money! It takes courage and love, to give and also to receive. It is all about balance. There is a proven method that goes like this, “the things that you want to increase in your life; you must first learn to give away.” You have to break the fear that is causing lack in your life. Self-sabotage happens when you have too much of something, and you become complacent, disconnected, and, sometimes, even greedy, and this includes fear and self-doubt.

When you look at abundance with new meaning and discover what is available for you, there’s no limitation on the extraordinary life that you can experience and help others to experience.

This book has been designed to show how God wants people to enjoy life to the full with overflowing abundance in every area of life. Are you living in abundance? Jesus said in John 10:10 “*I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).*” Does your life reflect this truth or are you like many others, wishing this was true in your life?

My goal is to take you on a journey to obtain the knowledge necessary for you to understand the Biblical perspective on abundance and prosperity and to help you comprehend how the principle of obedience to God facilitates abundant living.

A PRINCIPLE TO APPROACHING SCRIPTURE

Creation - Fall – Redemption (understanding these terms will help you as you go through this book)

- **Creation:** The formation of human beings as both the ultimate creative achievement of God and the purpose of His creative endeavours.
- **Fall:** Refers to the painful temporary distance or separation from God's divine purposes that resulted from human rebellion (disobedience) to God’s Word.
- **Redemption:** The program by God to reclaim humanity so that His original creation goals could be manifested in their lives.

One part of Jesus' mission here on earth was to restore life to humanity. Humans can only experience a small fraction of what they were created for, while separated from God.

Our opening scripture, John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came that we may have life to the full. The Greek word for 'full' is '*perissos*' meaning exceeding, going beyond full and abundant. So we can conclude that God wants us to experience a life that exceeds our expectation, one that goes beyond full, one that is truly abundant.

In looking at the creation narrative in Genesis, we can get a picture of the type of life we were created to experience.

The earth was created for humanity to rule - humanity was not created for the earth!

Genesis 1:26, NKJ

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

God personally blessed humanity.

Genesis 1:28, NKJ

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

God gave humanity everything He created in the earth.

Genesis 1:29-30, NKJ

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food;" and it was so.

God, the Creator, said that it was all 'very good'.

Genesis 1:31, NKJ

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God walked among humanity.

Genesis 3:8, NKJ

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

God's intention for His people.

Even after the fall, God makes it clear what His intended desires are for His people. His intended desire was that they might be blessed to be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2, NKJ

I will make you a great nation; I will **ble**ss you and make your name great; and you shall be a **ble**ssing.

In the book of Numbers, Joshua described the land that God had promised to the Israelites after He delivered them out of Egypt as “**exceedingly good**,” a land flowing with milk and honey.

Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to **prosper** you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.”

I hope, that as you have read these scriptures, it has made you realise that God has good intentions for you and that He is a good God all the time.

THE DEFINITION OF AN ABUNDANT LIFE

At the end of the day, I would like to have the same testimony as the apostle Paul had in 2 Timothy: *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but to all who have longed for His appearing.”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8, NIV)

In his letter to Timothy, Paul does not sound like he has many regrets about how he lived his life. He seems to be very much at peace, and he was confident that he had accomplished his purpose. You do not hear him saying “I wish I had...” You hear him saying, “I have...”

Here is my definition of an abundant life; “**An abundant life is a life that has fulfilled God’s purpose and plan.**” Considering what has just been discussed, how would you define an abundant life? How does your “I have” list compare to your “I wish” list?

OBEDIENCE IS THE KEY

How do we fulfil God’s purpose and plan in our lives? I believe it is by living in obedience to Him and His commands. In short - just do what He says in the day-to-day living of your life. Obedience is a crucial issue in scripture, the words obey / obeys / obeyed / obeying / obedience occur 258 times.

Abundance can be directly linked to obedience!

Deuteronomy 28:1-2, AMP

If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.

Moses goes on in verses 3-14 of Deuteronomy 28 and explains what blessings will follow you if you live in obedience to God and His Word. In short, you would experience abundance in all the areas of your life - and, as a result, your lives would be a testimony of God's glory to all the nations around you.

Have a read of Deuteronomy 28:15-68 at your leisure; these verses reveal the results of living a life disobedient to the direction of God's Word. Whereas Deuteronomy 29:9 – tells us to follow the terms of our covenant with God carefully, so that we may prosper in everything we do. There are a couple of scriptures I would like to bring to your attention from the Book of Deuteronomy, let's have a read of them.

Deuteronomy 29:9, NKJV

“Therefore keep the words of this covenant, and do them, that you may prosper in all that you do.”

Deuteronomy 30:15-16, AMP

See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil. ¹⁶ [If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which] I command you today, to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land into which you go to possess.

Now let's read this scripture from the NIV translation, to help us see it from a different perspective.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16, NIV

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

Here are my conclusive thoughts after reading these scriptures and what we have discussed thus far; “Blessings for Obedience - Curses for Disobedience,” the choice is yours. It is also good to recognise that in these Scriptures we have just read, as long as you live in obedience to His Word, God is the one who will bless you. We do not need to focus on the blessings because they are the end result of obedience.

It seems clear to me that obedience is the way to go. However, obedience to God obviously doesn't come naturally to us humans. Not only does the history of Israel show this, but our personal histories show us these principles are hard to follow. The Apostle Paul understood the predicament well when he wrote: “*I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.*” (Romans 7:15, NIV)

It can seem to be a trap – we know that blessings and abundant living are a result of walking in obedience, but we seem incapable of doing so. It appears that we are doomed to live a "cursed" life.

Again we find that the Apostle Paul understood this struggle as well when he wrote this in the book of Romans 7:24 – “*O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will release and deliver me from [the shackles of] this body of death?*” Paul

also knew the answer - *O thank God! [He will!] Through Jesus Christ (the Anointed One) our Lord! So then indeed I, of myself with the mind and heart, serve the Law of God.*

Question: Why Does God place such a high importance on obedience?

The answer is found in Deuteronomy 28:1-2 in the Amplified Bible. *'If you will listen diligently to the voice of the Lord your God, being watchful to do all His commandments which I command you this day, the Lord, your God, will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you if you heed the voice of the Lord your God.'*

Here are some questions for you to consider:

- *How have you seen the above principle work in your life?*
- *Have you experienced blessing for obedience?*
- *Have you experienced repercussions for disobedience?*
- *How would you define an abundant life now?*
- *How does your "I have" list compare to the "I wish" list?*
- *Why do you think God places such a high importance on obedience?*

BIO:

The author of this book, Trevor Bartley was born in Australia. He is an enthusiastic minister of the Word of God who is passionate about training and equipping the saints for the work of ministry.

Born again at the age of 18 he entered into ministry as a youth pastor. He has travelled extensively as an itinerant minister. Trevor has coordinated Ministry service teams for churches and conferences around Australia; he has established Lifestyle Training School an online Bible College and has taught in Bible colleges around Australia. Trevor has been in full-time ministry for 34 years, serving as an associate pastor, executive pastor, and director of two denominations. He has also authored several books. He has a Diploma in Christian Ministries and Theology.

Today, Trevor and his wife Jo regularly itinerate, and they are planting churches in Africa, Pakistan and Australia under their ministry name “Faith Works International.”

For further information regarding any of the training courses or resources for equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, please visit our website:

Faith Works International Resources

www.faithworksinternational.org

List of books

Ministry of Helps
Leadership and group facilitation
Where have we robbed God?
How can I hear the voice of God?
'You're off to a New Start' Basics for new believers
Resurrection, Rapture and Judgment
Finding hope in this world of Turmoil
Righteousness
Biblical myth busters – exposing the myths that make us miserable

When we are communicating the truths of the Word of God sometimes, we need to use words that relate to the individuals we are trying to share our truth with. So this is how I advertise this book;

“This book will help you understand the awareness of a spiritual awakening, to experience the dynamics of the correct consciousness and a connection to the source of life that will bring you to the place of inner peace.”

Our opening verse for this book is from John 10:10b, *“I came that they may have and enjoy **life**, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).”* The Greek word used here for ‘life’ is Zoë. So we can conclude that Jesus came to show us how to have and enjoy the God kind of life. As a born again believer you have been recreated and given a new life code (or DNA) to live by, and Jesus came to show us how to live that new creation reality here on earth.

The Bible tells us in John 3:16, For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) [God kind of] life. Then in Romans 6:23 it tells us, “For the wages which sin pays is death, but the bountiful free gift of God is eternal (the God kind of) life through and in union with Jesus Christ our Lord.”

This eternal life He came to give us is the very nature of God. In John 1:4 we can get a better understanding of what this **life** will do for us: “In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men.” One of the meanings for Light in the dictionary is ‘a state of understanding or awareness.’ So we could read this verse like this, ‘In Him was the God kind of Life, and the God kind of Life was the state of understanding and awareness for men.’

Let us live out of the Zoë kind of life and determine to be led by the Spirit of God in all that we do so we can live in the actual abundance of God, Amen.

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