

LIFE AND MORE LIFE, Jn. 10:10
"Life In All Its Fullness" — NEB

Introduction: Efforts to increase length of life

I. Why Christ Came

A. That lost people might have eternal life

1. Naturally dead in trespasses and sin.

2. Christ the only source of spiritual life.

Jn. 3:16; 5:40; 6:33 "*I am the door*"

B. That those to whom he has given life might have it more abundantly.

1. Life is often a matter of degrees

a. Plant and animal

b. ~~Animal~~ and human

c. ~~Sickness~~ and health

d. Infant and adult

e. Prisoner and free man

2. Christ gives spiritual life in superabundance.

3. Between the weakest Christian and the best

~~examples of the unregenerated man,~~

if not to human eyes, yet to the eyes of God,

there is all the difference between life & death.

II What is this More Abundant Life?

A. A life of stronger spiritual stamina

✓ B. An enlarged sphere of life --- *[Sincerity not enough]*
not "cribbed, cabined, and confined."

C. Full exercise of all our powers.

D. More abundant than the life of Paradise which Adam and Eve enjoyed in the Garden of Eden before they

sinned.

E. More abundant than the O.T. dispensation

F. Life renewed in the likeness of Christ.

III. How to have this more abundant life.

✓ A. We must get out of the rut of a sub-normal experience

x B. We must accept nothing less than God's own ideal.

1. Found in the Bible

2. Seen in Jesus Christ

C. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit

1. God's purpose for this filling

2. Our capacities for this filling

x x D. It must be carefully cultivated by every means of growth in grace.

E. We will have all eternity to develop this ideal.

IV. What is the Effect of this More Abundant Life?

A. Success in resisting temptation and overcoming evil habits.

1. Two ways of resisting temptation. Fight — Flight

2. You need purity as well as pardon,
like sick patients in a hospital on fire ———
you need rescue first, but healing also.

B. Deliverance from fear of falling

C. Peace and Joy

D. ~~Joy~~ A new effectiveness in Christian service.

E. A new view of the Lord Jesus

1. Our faith in Him strengthened

2. Our love to Him increased

3. Our consciousness of His presence deepened

4. A new appetite for the Word of God.

5. A new delight in prayer

6. A new love to the people of God

7. The quality of our service improved

② Conc. — How Love works
Cultured Black family moved into
a neighborhood. white man moved
in next door & threatened him
if he didn't move.

(Hudson, Religion of mature
Person, p. 83)

Oliver Wendell Holmes —
"Chambered Nautilus"

Bangkok — Feb 75
H.M.B.C. 3/4/56

Norwood B.C. St. Pete. July '8
Gateway B.C. St. Pete. Nov. '80
Cent. ch. Augsburg
17 Aug. '63.

Notes for sermon on "The More Abundant Life"

II. B. "Nothing is more dangerous than conscientious stupidity and sincere ignorance."

I do not want merely to possess a faith;
I want a faith that possesses ME.

Before one learns to live life in all its fullness, he must learn to live with himself and to live with others.

Only when we do more than is demanded do we find the joy and freedom of life in all its fullness.

III.A. We are our own greatest enemy in living life in all its fullness. The perfect victory is to triumph over ourselves.

The man who lives by himself and for himself is apt to be corrupted by the company he keeps.

Victor Frankl, the great Austrian psychiatrist, said, "The radius of our activity is not important, but important alone is whether we fill the circle of our tasks."

Many Christians have lots of busy trivial activities, but they never find their unique calling and fulfill it.

III.B. The secret of the more abundant life is to live each moment like a child, without looking backward or forward.

You never begin to live until you begin to live FOR SOMETHING.

No life is full unless it is linked to something that goes on after death.

III.D. How do we live life in all its fullness?

1. We can stretch the mind.

We need to grow mentally, pursuing
fresh intellectual interests,
developing our mind,
widening our consciousness.

2. Look and behold the wonders of the
world.

"This is my Father's world,

and to my listening ears,

All nature sings, and round me rings

the music of the spheres."

CONCLUSION:

"Build thee more stately mansions O my soul

As the swift seasons roll!

Leave thy low vaulted past!

Let each new temple, nobler than the last,

Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,

Till thou at length art free,

Leaving thine outgrown shell
by life's unresting sea!"

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes,

"The Chambered Nautilus."