

Always More

John 10:10

10 The thief does not come, except to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and that they may have it more **abundantly**.

Abundantly

- exceeding some number or measure or rank or need
- over and above, more than is necessary, superadded
- exceeding abundantly, **supremely**
- **something further**, more, much more than all, more plainly
- **superior, extraordinary, surpassing, uncommon**
- pre-eminence, superiority, advantage, more eminent, **more remarkable, more excellent**

We always want more in life

Even the person who seeks having less, they always want **more** of less

Having more, seeking more, isn't always a bad thing. But when it consumes us, takes over us, as it often does...then we're at the least **missing out** on what's really more.

Luke 12:16-21

16 And He told a parable to them, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully. 17 He thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have no room to store my crops?'

18 "Then he said, 'This I will do: I will pull down my barns and build greater ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years. Take rest. Eat, drink, and be merry.'

20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This night your soul will be required of you. Then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

21 "So is he who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Matthew 6:19-21

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and where thieves do not break in nor steal, 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

There's always a sacrifice.

Life is about decisions. Every second of every day we're probably faced with a decision.

Do I hit the snooze bar one more time? Do I get up now and get a head start?

Take five minutes for the Lord or rush ahead and get this thing done that's on my mind.

Do I get the side salad or the fries?

Sure, I can get more done on the house this month, but it'll cost me time with my kids.

The house feels like it's worth it now, but will it be when the kids are grown and out, maybe even gone? Will I really care if I spent that day painting the door or will having that time with them be worth more?

Not that doing things and taking care of things should be totally discarded, but sacrificing the best for the good. The eternal for the fleeting. The loved one for the loved thing.

But having more possessions in this life is not what we're talking about today. I want to talk about going further, experiencing more, and above all, Knowing God More. Going further, having more, doing more...spiritually.

Growing up in Northern NJ, never going far over the NYS border (north). Going on a flower delivery run with a friend...THERE'S A MALL HERE?

First moving to NY in 2003. Story of moving to NY, looking like the middle of nowhere (in my mind at the time) with farms, smells, woods, etc. Driving out and stopping right before Goshen, assuming there wasn't anything more beyond this point, turning around.

Then coming to know God. Finding a church...in Goshen. Making friends. Getting involved. Going further than Goshen. All over OC, Sullivan County, Pennsylvania. Camping at Big Pond. Taking road trips, Philly. Going on youth group missions trips to the Bahamas. Eventually following God to Maryland and Montana.

There was more.

Preparing notes...couldn't see...realized I left my glasses upstairs and they weren't even on. I wanted to see more. I needed to see more. So I went and got them.

Are you wearing your spiritual glasses? Do you have your spiritual eyes open?

Story of my mom as a kid telling me about spiritual eyes and earthly eyes.

1 Cor 13:01-12

But when that which is perfect comes, then that which is imperfect shall pass away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, and I thought as a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see as through a glass, dimly, but then, face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know, even as I also am known.

Table of God

Scripture talks about God having a table, preparing a feast for us. In this life and in heaven.

A table for me before my enemies...David

Go to prepare a place for you, won't drink of the cup of the vine until then - Jesus

Wedding feast at Cana...Jesus turns water into wine
 They'd run out of all they had, even the cheap stuff
 Jesus made the water (mind you, not triple filtered Evian) into the best drink they'd ever tasted

What do you picture God's feast as like?

Do you even think you have a seat?
 Do you think that there's only so much to go around?

James 4:1-3

Where do wars and fights among you come from? Do they not come from your lusts that war in your body? 2 You lust and do not have, so you kill. You desire to have and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask, and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your passions.

Luke 11:9-13

"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11 "If a son asks for bread from any of you who is a father, will you give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will you give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will you offer him a scorpion? 13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

God's table NEVER runs out.

There's never a time in His feast, that one of his guests, his loved ones, his sons and daughters, his friends, might ask "Lord, may I have some more of what you have prepared for me?" And He'll not respond with a whole line of heavenly waiters with full platters saying "What would you like?" Eat!

John 6:35

35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to Me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.

Heaven's kitchen is never closed. It's pantry never empty. It's angels never stop ministering.

If God ran out of good to give...he wouldn't be God.

The Israelites always had mana. They didn't always want it. It was available as much as they needed or as little. However much they took would be enough.

But they complained. God even answered their complaint with quail.

They gorged on the goodness of God, in his answer to their complaint, and it made them sick.

I have to wonder, if we're feeling sick in life, spiritually, is it because we're not feasting but gorging? We're seeking God to fulfill our earthly desires and getting sick on them instead?

Because if we're healthy, we'll keep eating what is good in good ways and get healthier spiritually.

You can always tell where someone's been eating spiritually. What are they spitting back out. What food is caught in their spiritual beard. What does their spiritual breath smell like.

Folks caught up in prosperity gospel, or erroneous teachings, etc.

They may get for a while...but eventually the "prosperity" runs out and they come up empty. Or maybe they don't run out of money but spiritually they're empty, dry, alone, or at the very least, don't have God like they used to.

God never runs out. He'll always fill you to overflowing. Even if you just asked him this morning to do so, you can ask again now.

We leak!

How much is enough to satisfy you?

Proverbs, Solomon always seeking, eventually all those wives led him astray, at least for a while. Read Proverbs & Ecclesiastes if you haven't in a while. Consider a few in the morning.

Life before God. Unsatisfied, empty. Looking around while at the bar, seeing all the vanity, wanting more, knowing there had to be more.

Seeing modern American church...looking at the scripture...looking back at the church life we had early on in the faith in NY. Knowing there's more.

Have you ever considered more for your life? Are you satisfied with where you are?

"Making moves!" Upgrades. Working hard, sweat equity, all good things, wise things even. We are to be good stewards, be successful and bless others. But I mean spiritually. Where are you today? Where have you been? Have you ever considered, even if you're doing the very best and are in the very best place you've ever been spiritually...that there's still more?

We talk about backsliding a lot in Christianity...and that's true and real and a danger. We talk about mountain top experiences, true and real and good. We talk about valleys and getting through them with God...all valid.

But what about the plateaus? Are you plateaued thinking there's not more? Maybe too old? Too much has happened? You've messed up too much or done enough? Do you know there's always more, always good, always more God to know?

We think we know him, and we do...but sometimes maybe we think we know him and we don't, that he's a *hard man* like said about the landowner in the parable of the talents being buried.

It's not over until it's over.

To live Life of faith

Heroes of the faith vs us

Abraham, David, Moses, Peter, Paul, Barnabus, Joshua, Deborah, SM&A

Missionary friends in China

Baptisms, house churches, young people coming to Jesus in droves

Lives changed for him

A fire started for him while the door was open

I think for many of us, all of us at one time or another, we get to a wall. Some even like it to giant stairs. We think it's the end, but it's just the next step up.

But holiness. Being set apart.

1 Peter 1:13-16

13 Therefore guard your minds, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 14 As obedient children do not conduct yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance. 15 But as He who has called you is holy, so be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." [a]

Seeking His Holiness

Not self righteousness, but seeking to find God in his holiness. To experience it. To reflect it. To be about it.

To decide to put off the things that we know aren't holy. And put on the things that we know to be.

It might be a trivial thing for someone else but huge for you now.

Quitting smoking after coming to Jesus

Might be just less TV, even if it's good TV, and more Bible.

But it seems that's what's missing from a lot of believers, churches and more. The desire for more holiness.

We stop short. We do have holy lives. I'm not knocking you or a church or anyone...I myself haven't attained and won't in this life. But there's a God-given desire for holiness. It provides far more, far deeper, more abundant life than just showing up on a Sunday. Doing nice things. Having friends who are Christian.

It's holiness. It's fellowship with God and others. It's being full of the spirit and doing the things of the Spirit. More than church. It's being the church. More than friendship. It's fellowship. More than fun events in the community, it's evangelism.

Once we've tasted, we can't be satisfied with less. We shouldn't be.

Once I had my wife's cooking, why would I ever go back to my meager former grill skills or bowls of cereal?

What's next?

What has God been showing you personally? What have you found yourself hungry for? What are you desiring? Seeking?

Friend at work and his wife listening to more podcasts. They're Catholic, but they're seeking the truth. I've shared a few with them. Pray for them that they'd come to know God as God wants to be known.

What is that for you?

Sometimes you need to find it yourself. Find a church that feeds you. Find friends that you can truly fellowship with - those that encourage you in your walk with God, to take those steps of faith with Him. Who are on the same mission as you.

Sometimes that means "be the change you want to see in the world" to quote a modern tattoo prophet (ha)

Pray. Take the step.

Do not let your talents be buried

Jesus died to save you! He sent his Holy Spirit to fill you! For YOU to be like Jesus in his physical absence you are his physical presence with His spirit living inside you.

How could we be satisfied truly with anything less than a life full of faith? Living for him. Fed by him. Sharing that life with others - in small ways, out to lunch, in big ways moving to China. In every day ways - going to church to meet with God, not just go to do something religious.

Ephesians 5:15-17

15 See then that you walk carefully, not as fools, but as wise men, 16 making the most of the time because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Do you know what the will of the Lord is? It's for you to know him. Be known by him. And make him know.