



The
ABUNDANT
LIFE

for
Babes
in
Christ

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(For Babes in Christ)

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by

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Sometimes the Lord has specific jobs for His children to do in His service, so you might ask: "Is there something I can do for you, Lord". He may give you a special job to do from time to time, or He may have a permanent job for you to do in His work. Whatever He wants you to do, He knows how willing you are to work for Him; so when you ask Him about a job, be sure you are sincere. (*Isa. 6:8*)

Remember: He did something quite special for you, so – when you say "Thank you Lord", you might add: "Is there something special I could do for you today?"

SAY, "THANK YOU, LORD"

Thank God for saving you and for all He has done for you before and since that time. Your appreciation should be shown in actions as well as in words. Once you are saved, you are indebted to God and therefore to your fellow man. You now have the opportunity to allow the light of Christ to shine through your life, that it might influence the lives of those around you. (*I John 3:18; Matt. 5:16*)

Although you can never repay the Lord for saving you, you can work in His behalf while you live in this world. He left His Church in the world when He went away for the purpose of carrying on His work. You may find His Church by following the leadership of His Spirit and then it is your duty to do everything in your power for its advancement. (*Eph. 2:10*)

You may work for Him by giving of your time, your effort, and your finances. There is a great deal of work to be done in the Church and it should be shared by all of God's people. God will richly bless you every time you earnestly seek His will and attempt something for His honor and glory. (*II Cor. 8:13*)

YOU ARE A NEW CREATURE

You have been born anew. All your old sins are blotted out and you have a fresh new life ahead of you. (*John 3:3; Romans 5:17*) Sin does not have the same hold on you that it once did; you have been delivered. (*II Cor. 5:17*) The price of your deliverance was the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Therefore, you no longer belong to Satan or to yourself, but to Christ, your new Master. (*Heb. 9:14; I Cor. 6:19,20*)

You now have a new friend, a comfort and a guide for your life. (*John 14:16,17*) The Holy Spirit is now with you at all times and if you take advantage of this, you can have the most contented and rewarding life imaginable. (*John 14:26,27*)

If you have not already done so, you will desire to present yourself to a local body of baptized believers, a New Testament Church, and request baptism and Church membership. (*Acts 16:30-33; Heb. 10:25*) You may find the Church with which the Lord would have you unite by

prayerfully studying God's Word and by asking for the leadership of the Spirit in making the choice. The Church of your choice may not be the Lord's choice, so it is extremely important that you follow His leadership in this. (*Rom. 8:14*)

You will find in the Church a group of people who, like yourself, are trying to live for God. To say that one can live just as well outside the Church as he can in it is much like saying that a soldier can do just as well fighting a war by himself, without the aid of any group or organization to train him and to support him. (*Heb. 10:25; I Cor. 12:1-31*)

This new creature needs companionship – choose it carefully.

In a world of trouble, turmoil and distress, you must show by your life that Christ does make a difference. The Bible teaches that others should be able to tell you from people of the world by the way you live. You cannot hope to influence others for Christ if your life is no better than theirs. As a Christian you have the the most wonderful, most glorious, and most abundant life in the world, SO LET IT SHOW. (*I Cor. 6:17; John 13:35; Matt. 5:16*)

The sooner you can establish an active, living, and working faith in God, the more blessed your life will be. You should turn your life over to Him and then feel confident that He is in command. You can only have the abundant life which God intends if you are living in harmony with His will. (*Pro. 3:5,6*)

Consult the Lord in every phase of your life. He wants you to share every decision, every joy, and every heartache with Him. Rely on Him to direct your thinking as well as your actions. No obstacle is too big, too small, or too personal to share with your new friend, Lord, and Master. (*Pro. 3:6*)

With your faith sure and steadfast, you can display the peace and contentment that comes to ones life when he has a stable relationship with God. The things of this life can only reach to a certain depth to disturb you and then the peace of God, which passes all understanding, makes itself manifest. Worry and faith cannot live together, one will surely push the other out of your mind. Again, the choice is yours to a large extent. (*Phil. 4:6,7*)

NOURISHMENT FOR THE NEW MAN

The part of you which has been born anew is the inward part (spiritual part) of your being. (*Rom. 7:22*) You will continue to feed the physical (outward man) much as you have before: his needs have not changed. But now you must consider the nourishment for the new man inside. Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God". So, the new man needs to be fed on the Word of God. (*Matt. 4:4; 1 Peter 2:2*)

When you read, study, or hear the Word of God, don't neglect to invite your new friend, the Holy Spirit, to help you understand it more fully. This is one of the reasons He was sent to earth – to guide you into all truth. (*John 16:13*)

Then don't forget to allow your Spiritual food to digest. Think, meditate, and pray over the Word of God. Allow the Spirit to enlighten you on the things taught in the Scriptures and help you to apply them to your own life. (*James 1:5,6*)

Spend some time each day in quiet med-

itation. Examine yourself in the light of the Scriptures and ask the Lord to help you understand yourself and others more thoroughly. He wants us, as His children, to be happy – and one of the best ways to do this is to come to a full understanding of ourselves in relation to God. Ask Him to give you direction and purpose in your life and then depend on Him to hear and answer your prayers. (*Pro. 3:6; Psa. 84:11; Psa. 139:23,24*)

The fellowship of other Christians is important to your continued growth in the Lord. You have something in your experiences, no doubt, which will feed them and they in turn may broaden your outlook on Spiritual matters. In Christ-like conversation one can be strengthened and nourished in the things of God. (*Heb. 10:25*)

You should constantly keep check on yourself to see that your Spiritual growth is pleasing to God. You do not wish to become a retarded Christian, who stops growing. You don't even want to have spiritual malnutrition, or spiritual indigestion. The nourishment of the new man is now your responsibility and one which deserves much consideration. (*II Peter 3:18; I Peter 2:2*)

LIFE MORE ABUNDANT

Jesus came to earth that you might have life and have it more abundantly. You received a new life when you were saved, now you have the choice as to how you live that life. You may do as some saved people do: consider the Christian life a burden and lead a defeated life. Or you may really live the life which God intends for His children to have: a victorious life filled with many Spiritual blessings. The choice is yours. (*John 10:10; Matt. 5:13,14*)

There is no question that life on this earth has two sides, a good one and a bad one. You may see the one you wish, to some extent. We are taught in the Scriptures to think on the true, the honest, the just, the pure, the lovely and the things of good report. (*Phil. 4:8*) This does not mean that you are to pretend that evil does not exist. You are to do all you can to fight the devil's forces in whatever way they appear. If this is done under the leadership of the Spirit and/or according to the teachings of the Scriptures, you may rest easy, knowing that God will have the victory in the end. (*I John 5:4*)

ask the Lord for wisdom and He will give it to you liberally. (*James 1:5*) Once an obstacle has been overcome, it should become a stepping-stone to greater depths of understanding and to better fellowship with the Lord. (*II Cor. 4:17*)

If you should yield to temptation, there is only one thing to do: confess your sin to God immediately and ask forgiveness. (*I John 1:9*) Although God wants us to strive to live above sin, He knows the weakness of mankind, and He has provided a remedy for sin. Having received salvation, you now have an advocate in the presence of God, interceding for you. (*I John 2:1*) You can be sure that you will receive full forgiveness and you may put the experience behind you and grow stronger from it.

Every trial and temptation can become a stepping-stone in the Christian life if it is handled in accordance with the will of God. (*Rom. 5:3-5*)

Stay close enough to the Lord all the time that you may have the assurance that He will be there when trouble comes – and, **MAKE STEPPING - STONES OF YOUR STUMBLING-BLOCKS.**

MAKE STEPPING-STONES OF YOUR STUMBLING-BLOCKS

Your battle with the devil did not completely end when you were saved. You are no longer under his control, but he would certainly like to convince you that you are. He lost your soul and he can never regain it, but he will give you all the trouble he can and try to ruin your influence with others. Remember, it is the inward man which was saved and the outward man will only be effected to the extent that you allow the inward man to lead your actions. (*Rom. 7:22,23*)

One of the first tricks the devil usually tries on a newborn babe in Christ is to convince him that he made a mistake: that he really wasn't saved at all. You must remember that the devil is a liar, and he will place various stumbling-blocks in your way. (*John 8:44*)

This is where you must call on your faith and your new friend to strengthen and help you to overcome Satan. Ask the Lord to show you where you stand with Him, believing with all your heart that He will

let you know. If you expect your prayers to be effective, you must believe that the Lord will hear and answer them. Every time you and your new friend put a stumbling-block behind you, you are a little stronger in the Lord. (*Heb. 11:6; James 1:5,6*)

A wide variety of temptations and evil thoughts will come to you. The sin is not in the temptation, but in the yielding. Evil thoughts will continue to cross your mind, but don't entertain them or allow them to linger. With the Lord's help, you can push them from your mind very quickly. The devil will persistently approach you but you must not let him become your friend. If the Holy Spirit is actually kept close enough to you, Satan will not bother you so often, because the two of them are not compatible. (*James 4:7; 1 Cor. 10:13*)

One of the hardest things a new child of God must face is disappointment in other people. Perhaps someone who has meant a lot to you yields to temptation, maybe even seems to turn his back on you and on God; but don't allow this to cripple your Christian life. Talk to God about it and He will help you understand the weak-

ness of others. Maybe it is necessary for this to happen to each of us at some time, to show us that we are not to place too much confidence in any man. People can only be strong as long as they allow God to rule supremely in their lives; if we turn our back on Him, we will all stumble. (*1 Cor. 8:9 11 Cor. 4:7-9*)

Another of the devil's favorite weapons is to use sin in disguise. Some sins are very apparent and you know you must stay on guard against them, but not all are so easily detected. If the devil can convince you to love anything or anyone more than you love God, he has caused you to sin. Mother, father, husband, wife, children, friends, school, occupation, worldly success, position, fame or wealth; whatever comes between you and God, that is sin. Even though the same thing might be perfectly harmless in its proper place; if it moves between you and God, you are committing a sin against God and you will suffer because of it. (*Matt. 10:37-39*)

Stumbling-blocks will continue to arise as long as you live in this mortal body. It will require great wisdom to overcome them. This wisdom can only come from God. The Bible teaches that you are to