

CouplesInBloom.com – From And To (...allowing abundance!)

February 2015

To live **life more abundantly** is God's will for us ⇨ John 10:10. Even though God already did everything for our best, we might think our ways are better yet. God speaks to us throughout our life to persuade us toward (what He knows *is*) **success**, but never forces it. This process of success is well described as **from and to**. We remember Jesus saved us **from** our sins ⇨ Matthew 1:21; Revelation 1:5, but might forget what Jesus saved us **to**. **Life more abundantly** is waiting for us through **from and to**, and the Bible tells us how:

From: if we are not careful, we can spend more time thinking about our past than we did when it was happening. The past is: *a) part of what God saved us from, b) what God chooses to forget, and c) what the devil wants us to think about and then feel bad about.*

To: God moves us *beyond* mercy / being forgiven **from** sin... and *into* grace / **to abundant life!** ⇨ Romans 6:11; Ephesians 2:5. Practical examples of **abundant life**:

✓ **Fishing without hooks**: in our old life, we used hooks: like a worm on a hook used to catch fish, we manipulated situations for our good. Now as Christians, we exchange that *power from control* type thinking for *God's power to us through intimacy* type thinking. Our submission allows the Holy Spirit to give us God's power. Jesus' followers dropped their nets to follow Him ⇨ Mark 1:18; and we drop our hooks of human manipulation so the Holy Spirit can become our power. We can spiritually discern / tell this difference.

✓ **Relationship over reward**: in our unsaved life, we served our paycheck more than our employer. As Christians, we find that God *is* love ⇨ 1 John 4:16, and His blessings (as fine as they are) pale awfully compared to the prize that **God is** to us... physically and spiritually. We keep maturing **from** mere natural desires **to** wonderful spiritual intimacy.

✓ **Better vision**: John 3:30 ⇨ "He must increase; I must decrease" happens as we grow *out of from* and *in to to*, because we become more like Jesus... *who was all about others*, not about Himself. Jesus' life instructs our own maturity; we ask: where does our energy go (?), where does our time go (?), what does our spiritual food emphasize: ministry to us or ministry to others (?) *God measures our maturity by our output*, not by our input ⇨ Matthew 15:11. The more our lifestyle is about others, the clearer we see abundance.

✓ **Higher desire**: God gives us our heart's desire ⇨ Psalm 37:4, but those with life more abundant *give God* the desire of *His* heart ⇨ Isaiah 6:8-9. God loves this so much that He personally gives a secret revelation to those who do it ⇨ Acts 20:35; giving gives more receiving than receiving gives. Suddenly, the shallowness of self-comfort is exposed, true abundance is released to us, and our humility and joy become wonderfully consummated.

God's ways are above our ways ⇨ Isaiah 55:9. Being eager to sacrifice does **not** come naturally to us; self-preservation does. The *Biblical gospel is*: 1) deny yourself, 2) pick up your cross, and 3) follow Jesus. The less abundant, *carnal Christian gospel is*: 1) you've been denied, 2) pick yourself up, and 3) follow Bible ways to get blessings you deserve. We always need to examine which gospel we follow because carnal Christianity abounds.

Keep growing *from from to to!* Our spiritual eyes open more; our life becomes more **abundant**: full, overflowing and alive with *Jesus!* ⇨ John 10:10; Philippians 3:7-17. ♥