



## Beyond Survival: Life That is More

Jody Zilske – November 3, 2018

### Session Two

Looking at survival in the natural realm allows us to draw spiritual parallels. Because the original plan was for God and man to have relationship, he placed in us and in the natural world not only a survival instinct for our bodies, but what would be necessary to sustain a spiritual relationship with him.

#### Spiritual Basics

Let's look again at the six things necessary for physical survival from Session One, but this time in a new light, given their spiritual importance.

#### **A-S-W-F-F-N**

**1. A=Attitude:** What has formed your attitude? Romans 12:2: Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. We need to stop allowing our attitudes to be shaped by the world and allow them to be transfigured by a renovated mind.

Instead of the S-P-E-A-R in Session One, let's employ another acronym:

#### **S-W-O-R-D**

**S=Salvation:** When you understand what has been done for you—the sacrifice, the love—your attitude about the world changes. Now is the time to come to him and now is the time to rejoice in the sacrifice that was given for you.

**W=Worship:** Worshiping God sets your eyes and heart and your mind on Him, not on your own circumstances and limited understanding. Worshipping, serving, bowing down to God can alter your attitude.

**O=Obedience:** To obey is better than sacrifice. Not only is God aware of how we obey, the world is watching, too. Ro. 16:19: For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore, I am rejoicing over you.

**R=Remember:** What do we to call to mind? Psalm 77: Psalmist remembers that God is the One who performs miracles. Willing obedience is the gateway to a transformed attitude.

**D=Dwell:** Psalm 61:4: Let me dwell in Your tent forever. Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings.

Abundant living requires a mind, an attitude, that is stayed on Christ.

**2. S=Shelter:** Shelter literally means hedged and shut in, to block and stop the approach, and to cover. The reality is when we get saved we no longer live in a temporary shelter we've created but instead, we live in the One who has created everything. Rev. 7:15-16: That's why they're standing before God's throne. They serve him day and night in his temple. The One on the throne will pitch his tent there for them; no more hunger, no more thirst, no more scorching heat.

(Ps 27:5; Ps 31:20; Ps 55:8; Ps 61:4; Ps 5:11; Rev7:15)

**3. W=Water:** John 4:10: "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." John 7:37-38: Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If a man is thirsty let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

(John 4:10; John 7:38)

**4. F=Fire:** Matthew Henry: "Is fire enlightening? So the Spirit is a Spirit of illumination. Is it warming? And do not their hearts burn within them? Is it consuming? And does not the Spirit of judgment, as a Spirit of burning, consume the dross of their corruptions? Does fire make all it seizes like itself? And does it move upwards? So does the Spirit make the soul holy like itself, and its tendency is heaven-ward. Christ says, 'I am come to send fire.'"

(Mt 3:11; Pr 14:30)

**5. F=Food:** John 6:35: Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry..." John 6:51: Jesus says, "I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever." Feast on God's Word, feast on Jesus, the Bread of Life, and feast on the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

(John 6:51; John 6:57)

**6. N=Naturalists Skills:** Why would God place this need for man to understand and be familiar with his environment? Phillip Keller wrote, “Yet divine revelation is irrevocably bound up with the basic subjects of the natural world...” He says that we need to “recognize the fact that God is author and originator of both the natural and supernatural (spiritual). The same basic laws, principles and procedures function in these two continuous realms. Therefore, it follows that to understand one is to grasp the parallel principle in the other.”

There is also another aspect to our environment that we need to be familiar with so that we can move beyond just surviving our time here so we can be equipped to thrive.

Eph. 6:12:

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

We live in an angry world that will only get worse. We need to understand where that anger originates so we can respond appropriately.

Choosing spiritual life translates into how we live life in the natural. One feeds the other. We choose. Is our spiritual life feeding our spiritual life? Or is our natural life trying to sustain our spirits?

Deut. 30:19-20:

“Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live! Choose to love the LORD your God and to obey him and commit yourself to him, for he is your life.”

In Eph. 5:14, we are told: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." We need to *decide to wake up and live!* Be encouraged and listen to the words of Oswald Chambers: “We all have any number of visions and ideals when we are young, but sooner or later we find that we have no power to make them real. We cannot do the things we long to do and we are apt to settle down to the visions and ideals as dead, and God has to come and say, ‘Arise from the dead’. When the inspiration of God does come, it comes with such miraculous power that we are able to arise from the dead and do the impossible thing.” Don’t allow the enemy of your heart to tell you that the visions and ideals the Lord spoke to you are beyond your grasp, that the life, the abundant life, has passed you by, and that all that’s left for you is just a bare existence.

### **Conclusion**

Learning to live a truly abundant life is an ongoing journey, fueled not by feelings or by the seemingly

impossible details of our current circumstances. It is fueled and sustained by the promises of God. It's learning to trust amidst the fearful voices of the world and knowing—really knowing—who you are in Christ.

God by his very nature exudes abundance: abundant love, abundant mercy, abundant grace.

And finally, you know you are living in God's abundance when you truly believe and understand that you have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus and that you have hope—a hope that is over and above any hope the world offers. In Him there is more than you will ever need.

Do you believe that God is enough, with a belief that transcends mere understanding?

### **Application**

How would you describe your life if it were an *abundant* life?

What might God be drawing you to? Is it to a deeper trust in Him in a seemingly impossible situation?

Is it to take a step out in faith? Consider what He might be calling you to.

Consider what might be obstacles that keep you from living in God's abundance. Go through the possible inhibitors to obtaining abundant life on Session One, Pages 2-4. Which ones apply to you? Can you think of others?

What steps might you take to overcome those obstacles? (Refer to the suggestions in the Application section of Session One for ideas.)

*Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotes are from the NIV.*