

May 27, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**1 Pt. 4:19** *So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. (NIV)*

When we are talking about real and abundant life, sometimes we picture those that walk around proclaiming the blessings that the LORD has laid upon them. They appear healthy, wealthy and wise. This is a convoluted picture of what abundant life is about. It is not about your bank account or your financial abilities. It is not about living in a luxurious and well-appointed home. Read through the eleventh chapter of Hebrews and see what many went through for the cause of Christ. In fact, many times, it is about people that are suffering for the LORD because of their faith. Example: Paul. For most of his saved life, he was traveling from city to city, proclaiming the gospel of salvation to the gentiles of the day. In many places he was run out of town by the people or the authorities. He faced horrific persecution on a regular basis. Just listen to his frank testimony to the church at Corinth: **2 Cor. 11:23-28** *Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. (NIV)*

Sound like an easy life? It most certainly was not, and yet Paul lived in the abundance of the Savior, not in the circumstances of this world. And instead, he kept his eyes and heart fixed on the One he was living for. He also reminded the church in Galatia to do the same. **Gal. 6:9** *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. (NIV)*

**Dear LORD, help us to keep our focus upon You. It is easy to get side-tracked on our personal issues. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price. Therefore, we are to glorify you in our mortal bodies. Help us to follow through on the commitment we have made. In Jesus Name, Amen**