

***John 17:1-10***

*Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, "as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. "Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. "For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*

**GOD'S DESIRE**

Jesus said that He came to offer abundant life. This can be defined as a passion for a person, the pursuit of God Himself. It is being in a relationship with the Lord where God makes Himself uniquely real every day. Israel's entrance into the promised land as described in the book of Joshua, is a graphic portrayal of the believer's pursuit of this abundant life. As well, a study in Israel's Journey to Jordan evidences the apparent Obstacles to The Pursuit of the Abundant Life, the first of which is *Failing to see God's earnest desire to lead His people to abundance*. For example, God's willing heart is evident in Exodus where: He is willing to bless many for the faith of few (Ex. 1:17-21), He is willing to agonize His people to bring forth a leader (Ex. 1:22 – 2:22), He is willing to invoke His promises when His own cry out (Ex.2:23-25), He is willing to uniquely reveal Himself to equip His leadership (Ex.3:2), He is willing to patiently wait for His leadership to come around (Ex.4), He is willing to magnify the burden of bondage upon His people in order to convince that His is the only path to freedom, (Ex. 5:5-9) and where He is willing to destroy the strength of a nation to demonstrate His sovereign power and the uniqueness of His people (Ex.3:19-29, chapters 7 – 14).

The measure of God's passion for His people to enjoy abundance is clear in His willingness to "move mountains" and invoke struggle to achieve it. The same is true today. God's desire is for His own to enjoy the abundant life in Christ. Failing to see this passion is failing to see God's own continuing love for those who have received Christ. Although accepting Christ as Saviour is accepting God's love by believing that "God demonstrated His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). It is characteristic of humanity to either doubt the continuation of that love because of difficult circumstances, or become complacent to that continuing love through the routine of religion! In either event, the constant reminder of God's unwavering, unconditional, unending love, is the greatest motivator toward pursuit of a deepening relationship with the living God who has promised: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and show Myself to him" (John 14:21).

Abbe Henri de Tourville (1842-1903) once wrote: "As for that which is beyond your strength, be absolutely certain that our Lord loves you, devotedly and individually, loves you just as you are.... Accustom yourself to the wonderful thought that God loves you with a tenderness, a generosity, and an intimacy that surpasses all your dreams. Give yourself up with joy to a loving confidence in God and have courage to believe firmly that God's action toward you is a masterpiece of partiality and love. Rest tranquilly in this abiding conviction."

***What is my response:***

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