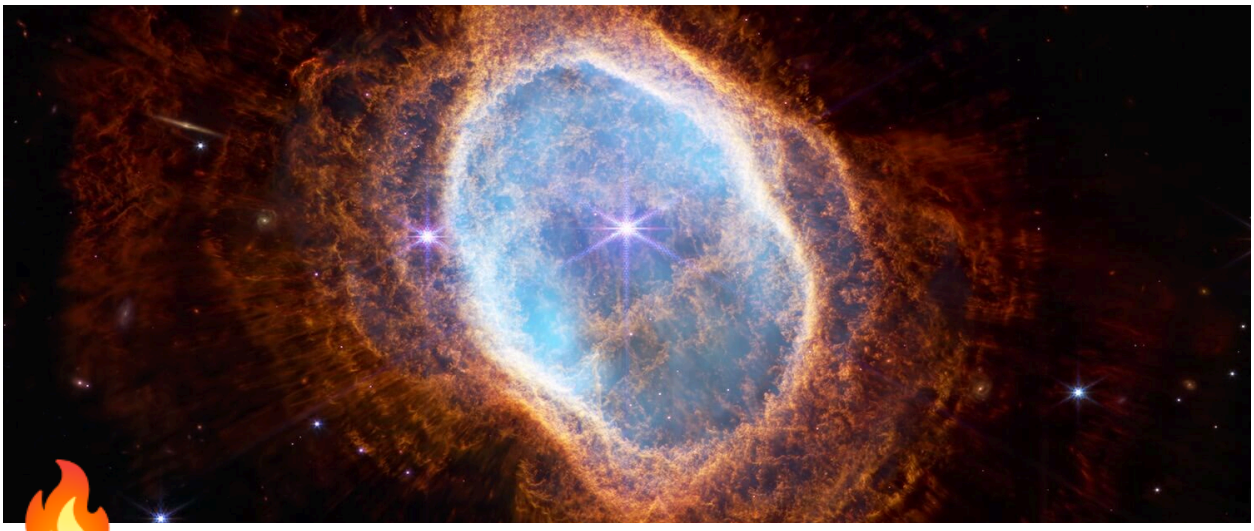


To the Full, Till It Overflows: The Life Christ Came to Give

Primary Scripture	John 10:10
Series	Overflow
Session #	0
Status	Outlining
Topics	
Type	Sunday Message

> *"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows]."*

> — John 10:10 (AMPC)

Sermon Overview

Series: Overflow — The Fullness of the Christ-Life

Thompson Chain Anchors: Christ Life #2152 · Spiritual Abundance #18

Central Question: *Are you living the life Christ came to give — or a diminished version of it?*

> 🎯 **Big Idea:** Jesus did not come to give you *enough* to survive. He came to give you life *to the full, till it overflows.* The gap between surviving and overflowing is not a gap of effort — it is a gap of revelation. When you understand what He came to give, you stop settling for less.

Introduction — The Contrast That Changes Everything

John 10:10 is one of the most important verses in the New Testament because it does two things simultaneously: it names the enemy and it names the mission.

The enemy — *the thief* — has one agenda: steal, kill, and destroy. He is not interested in neutralizing you. He wants *less* of you — less joy, less faith, less purpose, less of everything God designed you to carry.

The mission — *I came* — Jesus steps into that sentence with the full weight of divine intent. He did not arrive accidentally. He did not come as a contingency plan. He came with a purpose: *that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance.*

The word translated "abundance" is the Greek *perissos* — beyond what is expected, over and above, more than enough. The AMPC renders it with breathtaking precision: *to the full, till it overflows.*

This sermon is about what overflows.

Part I — The Life He Is

John 14:6; John 1:4; John 5:26

John 14:6 (AMPC):

"Jesus said to him, I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except by (through) Me."

Hermeneutical Context

📖 **Literary structure:** John 14:6 is Jesus' response to Thomas' question: *"Lord, we do not know where You are going, so how can we know the way?"* (v. 5). Thomas is asking for a roadmap. Jesus responds by declaring that He is not the directions — He *is* the destination, the journey, and the life of the traveler all at once.
The three "I am" declarations are inseparable:

- *The Way* — how you get to the Father
- *The Truth* — what is real about the Father
- *The Life* — what you become when you reach the Father

You cannot separate abundant life from the Person who is Life. This is why the abundant life cannot be produced by a technique or a theology alone — it requires *Him.*

Exegesis — Life as Self-Existence

🔬 **John 1:4 (AMPC):** *"In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men."*
John 5:26 (AMPC): *"For even as the Father has life in Himself and is self-existent, so He has given to the Son to have life in Himself and be self-existent."*
Greek: *zōē* (ζωή) — life in the fullest sense, divine life, the life of God Himself. Distinct from *bios* (biological life) and *psuchē* (soul-life). This is the *uncreated, self-existent life* of the Trinity, deposited into creation through the Son.
Key phrase: *"life in Himself" — zōēn en heautō.* The Father has life as an intrinsic property — not borrowed, not received, not sustained from outside. And the Son was given this same quality: *self-existent life.* The Life He gives is not something He found or earned. It is *what He is.*

The Mathematical Reality

📐 When you receive the Christ-life, you are not receiving a portion of His life while He retains the rest. You are receiving *Him.* And He is infinite. In mathematics: *Infinity divided by any finite number = Infinity.*
The abundance of the Christ-life is not limited by how many people receive it. The River does not run dry. The Source does not diminish. Every believer who receives His life receives *all of it* — not a share.

Part II — The Life He Gives

Numbers 21:9 → John 3:14–15; John 11:25

The Type: Numbers 21:9

"So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it on a pole, and if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent [attentively, expectantly, with a steady and absorbing gaze], he lived." (AMPC)

Historical & Cultural Background

🏛️ **The wilderness context:** Israel's fiery serpent crisis (Num 21:4–9) is a judgment episode. The people spoke against God and Moses; fiery serpents bit them and people began to die. God's prescribed remedy is paradoxical: *look at the very thing that is killing you, and live.*
The type-antitype structure: Jesus explicitly invokes this passage in John 3:14–15: *"And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, in order that everyone who believes in Him [who cleaves to Him, trusts Him, and relies on Him] may not perish, but have eternal life."* The bronze serpent was the object of faith — not because bronze healed, but because God had attached His life-promise to the act of looking. Christ is the antitype: He was lifted up on the cross, and looking to Him in faith connects the believer to *zōē.*

Life for the Dead: John 11:25

John 11:25 (AMPC):

"Jesus said to her, I am [Myself] the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on) Me, although he may die, yet he shall live."

🏛️ **The Lazarus Context:** Jesus arrives four days after Lazarus has died (v. 39 — *"Lord, by this time he is decaying and throws off an offensive odor"*). Martha's faith is still intact but limited to future resurrection (v. 24). Jesus' response reframes the entire conversation: *I am not a future event. I am present-tense Resurrection and present-tense Life.*
Implication: The abundant life is not suspended by death and restored at resurrection. It *overcomes* death in the present tense. Lazarus was the demonstration. The believer is the ongoing proof.

Death Abolished: 2 Timothy 1:10 (AMPC):

"But [it has now been] revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, Who annihilated death and made it void and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel."

> *Katargeō* — rendered inoperative, stripped of its power. Death did not lose a battle. It was *abolished as an operating system.* The abundant life is lived on the other side of death's operational authority.

Part III — The Life That Overflows

The Six Expressions of Spiritual Abundance (Chain 18)

2 Corinthians 9:8 (AMPC):

"And God is able to make all grace come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances be self-sufficient and furnished in abundance for every good work."

Ephesians 3:20 (AMPC):

"Now to Him Who is able to do superabundantly, far over and above all that we dare ask or think — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts,

hopes, or dreams."

Hermeneutical Context

📖 **The grammar of abundance in Paul:** Paul's language in Ephesians 3:20 uses the word *huperekperissou* — a triple-stacked compound intensifier that has no English equivalent. The AMPC requires *seven phrases* to render it: *"superabundantly, far over and above all that we dare ask or think — infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams."*
Paul was not being poetic. He was being *precise.* The grammar of the Greek is straining at its own seams to describe a God whose abundance exceeds the capacity of human language to contain it.

The Six Overflows

1. Abundant Joy — Psalm 36:8; 85:12; Song 5:1

> *"They relish and feast on the abundance of Your house; You cause them to drink from the river of Your pleasures."* (Ps 36:8, AMPC)

> Abundance begins with *joy,* not possessions. The river of God's pleasures is the first expression of the overflowing life. Joy is not a byproduct of abundance — it is its *root.*

2. Abundant Life — John 10:10

> *Perissos* — beyond expectation, to the full, till it overflows. The foundation expression from which all others flow.

3. Abundant Grace — 2 Corinthians 9:8

> Grace that is *functional* — producing *autarkeia* (self-sufficiency in all circumstances) and furnishing the believer for every good work. Grace always overflows toward others.

4. Abundant Power — Ephesians 3:20

> *Huperekperissou* — the triple-stacked superlative. Power working *in us* that exceeds our highest imagination of what God might do. The ceiling of God's power in your life is not your faith ceiling — it is *above and beyond* it.

5. Abundant Supplies — Philippians 4:19

> *"My God will liberally supply (fill to the full) your every need according to His riches in glory."* The measure of supply is not your need — it is *His riches.* A God of infinite wealth, supplying a finite need.

6. Abundant Entrance — 2 Peter 1:11

> *"There will be richly and abundantly provided for you entry into the eternal kingdom."* The abundance does not end at death — it overflows into eternity. A grand arrival, not a back door.

Part IV — The Only Source

1 John 5:12; Romans 5:21

1 John 5:12 (AMPC):

"He who possesses the Son has that life; he who does not possess the Son of God does not have that life."

Historical & Cultural Background

🏛️ **John's Gnostic context (c. AD 85–95):** The early Gnostic movement claimed access to divine life through hidden knowledge (*gnosis*) rather than through the person of Jesus Christ. John's counter is binary and absolute: *the Son* — not knowledge, not experience, not religious practice — is the only source. Possession of the Son = possession of the life. Absence of the Son = absence of the life. There is no third option.

Romans 5:21 (AMPC):

"So that, just as sin has reigned in death, so grace might reign also through righteousness which issues in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

> The word *reign* (*basileuō*) describes a ruling dynasty. Sin had a dynasty — and its currency was death. Grace overthrew that dynasty — and its currency is *eternal life.* The abundant life is not a personal achievement. It is the result of a regime change. Grace is now on the throne, and it produces life.

Conclusion — Stop Living Below the Overflow Line

The thief has one goal: keep you below the overflow line. Keep you surviving. Keep you managing. Keep you just enough alive that you never discover what *to the full, till it overflows* actually feels like.

But Christ came. He came *intentionally, purposefully, specifically* — and He came for *life.* Not baseline life. Not barely-making-it life. *Abundant. Radiant. Everlasting. Overflowing.*

The gap between where most believers live and where Christ intended them to live is not a gap of effort. It is a gap of *possession.* Do you possess the Son? Then you possess the life — all of it. Every overflow. Every expression. Joy. Grace. Power. Supplies. Entrance. All of it.

"He who possesses the Son has that life."

Possess Him fully. Live fully. Overflow.

🔥 **Closing Declaration:**
"I was not saved to survive. I was saved to overflow. The life Christ came to give is in me now — radiant, abundant, everlasting. I possess the Son. I possess the life. To the full. Till it overflows."