

Abounding in the Lord

1 Corinthians 15:58

We are living in an age where it seems that everyone is seeking after something. Many young people are seeking to establish their place in life. Many young adults are seeking to secure stable employment and begin a family. Many who are middle aged are seeking financial freedom and security. The older generation seems to seek new ways of feeling better and enjoying the simple things in life. These are all normal phases that most people go through as they pass through this life.

The troubling thing in today's society is that few ever find the one thing that brings real peace and contentment. Finding our place in life, starting a family, landing a good job, reaching financial independence, and even seeking better health is good, but apart from the Lord it is all in vain. You could secure everything that the world attributes to success and still find yourself miserable.

It is possible to pass through this life and enjoy living if one follows the direction of the Lord. The material blessings of life are good, but they are by no means the most important. It ought to be our desire to live and walk with the Lord in a way that pleases Him. It is possible to abound in the Lord and enjoy His peace and contentment regardless of other circumstances. I want to consider the life of believers as it is described in the verse that we've read. There is application for each of us. Let's look at the [principles](#) for living as we think on the thought of: [Abounding in the Lord](#).

I. The Relationship of the Believer – [Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.](#) Clearly relationships play a key role in our lives. The believer has a special one.

A. Our Assurance – [Therefore, Adrian Rogers comment. Paul is referring us to the previous verses. He has just given one of the greatest discourses on our hope and assurance of life beyond the grave. Notice: 1 Cor. 15:51-53 - Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. V.57 – But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.](#)

- We are not a people that lack hope. We have the assurance of better things to come. We may never achieve all that we hoped in this life. We may never secure the job we wanted or find the financial freedom to do all the things we desired. Our lives may be filled with suffering and pain, but this is not all there is for the child of God. We have hope of eternal life in Christ!

B. Our Association – [Therefore, my beloved brethren](#). Paul speaks of the believers at Corinth as brethren. They are not just acquaintances that he has met. They are not just people that he has shared some time with on occasion; they are counted as brethren. They are more than just friends; they are part of the family. They share a special bond.

- I don't know a lot, but I do know in order for you to be a brother, we must come from the same womb. We must be born of the same mother. The only other way that is possible or legal is through adoption. Praise the Lord, all of the redeemed enjoys both. We have come through the same womb of salvation. We were all born into the family of God by the blood of Christ. Also we too were adopted into this family. God chose to have mercy upon those who deserved condemnation and make them partakers of His divine grace. We are adopted into the family, brethren in the Lord!

C. Our Affection – [Therefore, my beloved brethren](#). They weren't just brethren; they were [beloved](#) brethren. They held a special place in the heart of the apostle. He cared for them and was concerned for their well being. The word [beloved](#) has the idea of "*esteemed, dear, worthy of love.*" This was a special group to Paul. They shared a common bond and were loved.

- Do you realize what you have in the body of Christ? You are somebody and you are loved. You will never find among the world what you find in the church. When we were saved, the Lord put an affection for His people within our hearts. (I know that some don't act that way or show that love, but they just need to get right with the Lord.)

- I am thankful for the relationship that I have with the church. I love you and I know that you love me. I may not be accepted among the world, but I can come to the house of God and find love and acceptance. I have never been a part of anything like the church. I'll take a bad day among God's people over a good day among the world any time.

➤ Realizing the relationship we have surely helps us abound in the Lord, but we must also understand and embrace:

I. The Relationship of the Believer

II. The Responsibility of the Believer – We've all heard the phrase "membership has its privileges," but with those privileges come responsibilities as well. [Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord](#). This reveals three areas of responsibility.

A. Our Conviction – We are called upon to be [steadfast](#). This means "*to be seated; settled; firmly established.*" We are to be grounded and settled in our faith. We are to know what we believe and why we believe it.

- We seem to encounter much confusion, but there is a difference in convictions and opinions. Our opinions are something we hold as true or right; our convictions are unchanging truths that holds us. Opinions can and do change, but convictions are unwavering; they are settled.

- Few have deep settled convictions any more. If we are to abound in the Lord, we must abide by our convictions. I am settled in my convictions and they will not change.

B. Our Constraint – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord. Also we are called upon to be unmovable. This is closely related to being steadfast. Unmovable has the idea of “*not being moved from a particular place; firmly persistent; motionless.*” It is simply figuring out where you stand and staying put.

- We will never be able to stand in one place until we figure out where we need to stand. We must first establish our convictions and then refuse to be moved from them. Far too many in our day have strayed from the will and ways of God. Few are willing to take a stand for the cause of Christ.

- I can assure you that standing for the Lord and refusing to be swayed will not be popular. The world doesn't like it when we refuse to conform to their wants and desires. We must resist the urge to remove from the place that God has instructed us to stand. There are some things that just aren't open for debate. There are some issues that we cannot abandon or walk away from no matter who else has or the pressure that we face to do so. I have not been called to conform to the world or please them. In fact we have been called to come from among the world and be a separate people.

- You may not enjoy the bright lights, fame, or popularity associated with the world, but being unmovable pleases the Lord. I agree with the Psalmist: [Ps.84:10 – For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.](#)

C. Our Conduct – Finally we are urged to be always abounding in the work of the Lord. This is an interesting phrase. It literally means “*exceeding a fixed amount; overflowing; exceeding.*” Our work for the Lord is not to be passive or scarce. We are to literally overflow for Him.

- There seems to be little problem in abounding when it comes to our desires, but when it comes to the Lord's work few are willing to really produce. I don't want to hurt your feelings, but abounding in the work of the Lord requires much more than just attending church on Sunday. It even involves more than reading the Bible every day.

- This has the idea of being consumed with the Lord. It is being on fire for Him and going overboard in our service to Him. (In reality, we could never do too much for the Lord, but we could do much more than we currently do!) I wonder what would happen here at Fellowship if just a handful decided to abound in the work of the Lord. Paul did that and the Lord blessed him and the church because of it. [2 Cor.12:15a – And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you.](#) Are we abounding or just coasting along?

- The Lord would be worthy of all of this just because of who He is and what He has done for us, but we are not asked to labor without benefit.

I. The Relationship of the Believer

II. The Responsibility of the Believer

III. The Reward of the Believer – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. There is a promised reward for those who abound in the Lord. Notice, we are promised:

A. A Peaceful Life – forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. Paul reveals that serving the Lord and living for Him is not living life in the dark. We are not just aimlessly wandering through life hoping that we have not wasted our time living for Jesus. We are not hoping that all of this is real and that Jesus is able to secure our salvation and provide eternal life. We can live this life in full assurance that He is faithful as He promised. There are some things that we can know.

- Philip. 1:6 – Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: 1 Pet.1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 1 Pet.1:13 – Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

B. A Profitable Life – forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord. There maybe wasn't much to rejoice about among the church at Corinth as far as this world was concerned, but there was hope on the Lord. He was mindful of their efforts and He would reward them accordingly. They had labored tirelessly for the Lord and He had taken notice.

- I am convinced that the average Christian feels overlooked and unappreciated. We often feel as if we are constantly giving and getting nothing in return. Maybe you have prayed for a loved one or witnessed to a co-worker for years and yet their life is unchanged. Maybe you have attended the house of God by yourself for years and your spouse has stayed at home. You may feel as if you have contributed little to the cause of Christ.

- May I encourage you to press on for the glory of God? He is keeping a record and your efforts are never in vain. Just keep praying; just keep telling others of Jesus; just keep coming to church, even if you have to come by yourself. God is faithful and He will reward your faithfulness. [Gal.6:9 – And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.](#)

Aren't you glad for the relationship that we have with the Lord and fellow believers? Aren't you glad that our labor is not in vain? Are you fulfilling the responsibilities that the Lord has given you? Are you abounding in Him? If not why not come and seek His help and direction in your life? Jesus deserves the very best that we can offer. Why not come and seek the Lord to settle some things in your life and give you the courage to stand?