

"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
John 10:10 NKJV

This lovely song is saturated with biblical images for which Noel has scoured the New Testament. These images reliably guide the singer to an accurate and moving appreciation for the abundant life Jesus promises—and delivers—to all the once lost but now found beneficiaries of His grace.

The humble (but honest) man who wasn't blind anymore, claimed to know nothing except the really important thing: that God's grace had been made available to him, that he had been healed, and that a marvelous new vista had been opened up to him. This is the healing—and the abundant life—that the Lord is so willing for us to experience.

It's tragically dangerous for lost sheep to wander through a world filled with bears and lions. But Jesus is a great finder of lost sheep, and there is a wild party in Heaven when He brings us home to the sheep fold of deliverance and hope. Yes—even for you!

Our invitation to the banquet table is not about going to Heaven when we die. It is about living the abundant life here and now. Granted, some days life doesn't feel much like the great banquet Jesus may have had in mind as He told that parable. But that's the whole point. We live in a broken world where life can be hard, filled with challenges, distractions, sorrows, and disappointments that threaten to break us. Yet through it all, if we are *in Christ*, we are seated in the Heavenly realms *with Christ*. We are already seated with Him at the banquet table of grace and love.

In Psalm 23, the Lord prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies. Yes, we have enemies —we are in a war. We are citizens of Christ's eternal Kingdom, but until He returns for us, we must cope with the realities of life in this world of many sorrows. Yet in the midst of it all, in the heat of the battle, Jesus invites us to His banquet table—to be refreshed in body, mind and spirit, and to prepare our weary hearts to go back out there and face the battle in the strength of the Lord.

Worldly pride is pointless. Let us humble ourselves and let the abundant life flow over us.