

John 10:10

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

When you read verses like this one, what's the first thing you think about?

- All my bills are paid.
- I can get that car I have been dreaming about.
- I should go buy that house.
- I'm going to go ask him or her out on a date.
- I am going to ask for that raise that I deserve.

So many things we think of as abundant living, but that's not what this verse is talking about. Notice what Jesus said:

† *I have come that they may have life*

Before we came to Christ we were dead in our sins. But now we have eternal life in Jesus Christ. We were like an apple seed, dead as it is just laying there until it is planted in the ground. The results of planting this dead seed in the ground is that an apple tree will grow, which will produce more apples. That's abundant living, being dead but Jesus giving us life so we can help and minister to others just like an apple tree.

If no one planted that apple seed, there would be no apple pies, no applesauce, no apple butter, no big red juicy apples to sink your teeth into, and no apple a day to keep the doctor away.

So next time you read a verse like this, don't start thinking about all the things you can have or get, but rather think about those you can serve *more abundantly*.

† **Romans 14:18-19 (NLT2)** *If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too. So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.*