

AMAZING PROMISES –8 of 9  
A Promise Only Jesus Can Make  
September 21, 2025

**INTRODUCTION** So, we've been in this series called **The Amazing Promises of God.**

Today I want to talk about one promise Jesus made found in John chapter 10.

It starts out with a conversation between Jesus and the Pharisees. The Pharisees were the spiritual leaders at the time. Jesus is explaining to them who He is, why He came, and who He came for.

He's telling them what He is all about and how everything that they've known up to this point is over, and it's all about Him. And He's using imagery of the shepherd and the sheep. He's using imagery of the sheep pen with the gate, and He represents the gate.

So, He's explaining all of this to the Pharisees, but they don't get it. They're confused.

So, we pick up in John 10:7, *<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.*

*They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

So, here's Jesus giving the Pharisees two clear pictures. This is who I am. This is why I came.

And then a promise at the end. Verse 10, *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."*

**JESUS PROMISES LIFE TO THE FULL.**

It's why He came. This promise is for us. For you and for me.

There's other translations that describe full life as the abundant life. Jesus came so that you and I could have abundant life with Him in heaven forever, and ever in eternity. But also, He came so that here on earth that we would have life to the full.

He has come so that we would have life to the full here, now, and for eternity. He's not promising longer life, or wealth and riches.

He's not promising we get everything we want or a life without pain. He's not promising a life where everything goes as planned, or that we have perfect health.

In our relationship with Christ there are ups and downs. He's not promising a life without ups and downs. He's not promising a life with perfect health or without pain. He's not promising a life that erases all of the circumstances.

But in the midst of all those things, a life with Jesus is a lovelier ride. Because, this life to the full, promises you and I so much more than our circumstances, than our stuff.

We have an idea of what life to the full should look like. Right? We think that, **"If I can just get into a relationship life will be full. If I can just get that job life will be full.**

**If I can just make more money my bank account will be full, and so will life. If I can just get better grades life will be full.**

**If my kid can just get into college life will be full. If we could just own our home instead of having to rent life would be full."**

The world makes a whole lot of false promises, and we listen to a whole lot of things that are promised that can't last. The only one who can promise the full life is Jesus.

The passage where He makes the promise, He actually starts out the promise with the word **"I"**. **"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."** Which means the full life He's promising is directly connected to our relationship with Him.

**A "LIFE TO THE FULL" IS A RESULT OF BEING CONNECTED TO JESUS.**

I'm not saying that it's bad to want things, or have goals, or look forward to things. But when we think that those things are going to fill us up in a more fulfilling way than Christ fills us up, we are wrong.

See, it's in our connection to Him that we really experience the full life. When you go on a mission trip to a poor country this becomes really evident.

The space is not westernized, no electricity, no running water, no indoor plumbing. Most homes are one room, no concrete floor, dirt floors. It is farm life, it is village life.

And everybody you meet doesn't have a whole lot, but they are so joyful.

A woman wakes up every morning at 5:30 and goes to cook lunch for a group of orphans from 6:00 AM to 12:00. Monday through Friday she does that, and the orphans come to the church and eat lunch. You get a chance to help her cook, and she was awesome at it!

Then she invites you back to her house. She exudes joy, and love, and kindness. You just want to be around her because she makes you feel great.

Her home is about as big as a closet. It's got four walls, and a dirt floor. There's some benches and a family of five live in this space.

She invites you in with this giant smile. And you say, **"What can we do for you? What can we bring you? What do you need?"** And she says, **"I'm just so happy you're here. I don't need anything."**

We think she needs stuff. Because we have this perception that to have the full life, you need to have the comforts and the conveniences and the stuff.

But she says, **"Jesus has provided everything I need. I am so grateful. I'm so grateful for everything I have."**

**I'm so grateful that I get to sit with friends today. Do you know how special it is that I get to sit with you today? Jesus has given me everything I need."**

From our perspective, we think she needs things. But from her perspective she has everything. She has everything she needs, because everything comes from her connection to Christ. From our perspective she was lacking. From hers, life was full.

John 15:4-6 says, *<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.*

*<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

*<sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.*

Jesus is the vine, and He calls us the branches. When the branch is attached to the vine, it gets everything it needs. It gets nutrients, it grows, it thrives, it lives its best life attached to the trunk.

But when the branch is detached, cut off, it loses everything that the source gives it and begins to wither and die.

It's in our connection to Him that we thrive. We grow in our love and knowledge of Him. It's in our connection to Him that we experience this full life that He promises.

Well, what does this look like? The first is, a connection to Jesus is experienced by believing and receiving.

### **① BELIEVING AND RECEIVING.**

Full life comes from being connected to Jesus by believing and receiving the free gift of salvation and relationship that He offers.

John 1:12 says, *<sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*

Jesus has His arms open to you. If you do not know Him, if you don't have a relationship with Him, He offers relationship and salvation to you.

Christ is inviting you to be in a relationship with Him, to be a member of the family of God. And the benefits to having a relationship with Christ is life to the full.

Jesus actually talks about the benefits of a relationship in John 10:9-10. <sup>9</sup> *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

Pasture represents contentment, and peace, and unconditional love and hope. <sup>10</sup> *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* Life to the full. It's a benefit of our relationship with Christ.

If you don't know Him, He wants to know you. And the invitation is there. And when we believe and receive, that relationship begins and it's in that connection to Him that we begin to experience this promise. This promise becomes real in our lives.

Another way that we deepen our connection, our connection to Jesus is also experienced by

## **② TRUSTING AND OBEYING.**

When we trust Jesus and are obedient to what He asks of us that deepens our connection with Him. And we experience life to the full.

John 10:3-4 says, <sup>3</sup> *The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.*

<sup>4</sup> *When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.*

In our connection with Christ, trust and obedience deepens that connection.

**ILLUSTRATION** When our daughter Elizabeth was in the youth group she went on a mission trip to Mexico. She didn't know what to expect but she trusted and obeyed and joined the youth and adults on this trip. She saw poverty up close and personal. At the end of the trip, they had built a house for a family. She said it was the closest she felt to Jesus!

Another way we experience through connection is by,

### **③ LOVING AND SERVING.**

When we love and serve His people that deepens our connection with Him. 1 John 4:19 says, *We love because he first loved us.* Not a lot to interpret here. *We love because he first loved us.*

When we love and serve God's people that deepens our connection to Him, because it makes us look just like Him when we love and serve in His name.

There are so many places in the church to love and serve. There are places in our community to love and serve. There are places around the globe to love and serve.

Every day God puts people in our path. And loving them and serving them deepens our connection with Him.

Who in your neighborhood needs a meal this week? Or who needs you to pray over them? Who needs an encouraging text right now? Is there someone who just needs a hug?

There are people God puts into our path every single day. And loving and serving others deepens our connection with Christ. It makes us look just like Him!

The moments where life has felt the fullest aren't connected to things achieved, or collected, or things that I have.

They're connected to these amazing moments that Christ has shown me this full life that I could not have anticipated or chosen for myself, but that He has chosen for me.

This promise is for you and for me. The best life ever is a life lived with, and for Jesus. This promise of a full life is for you.

Maybe that means stepping into the full life, beginning a relationship with Jesus for the first time. Believing and receiving.

For some of you, stepping into this fullness means trusting Jesus, and following Him, and doing what He's asking you to do. It's entering into trust like you never have before, knowing that Christ has fullness for you!

Or maybe stepping into fullness just means loving and serving whoever comes in your path this week. The checkout person or your kid when they're having a tough day, or your neighbor. Let's pray.

God, thank you for loving us and seeing us the way that You do, for this promise that You give us. This promise of a full life.

God, help us to lean into our connection with You this week and experience the fullness that You have for us. Help us to let go of our circumstances and embrace the promise You have for us.

Father, help us let go of our pain, our hurts, of anything that would overshadow You. Father, thank You for loving us the way You do.

You love us even though we don't deserve it, but You do it anyway. We are so grateful for the way You love us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**THE END**