

The Abundant Life #5

A New Normal

Philippians 1:6 - NKJV - ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 1:6 – CEV - ⁶ God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns.

Define Normal - conforming to a standard; usual, typical, or expected.

We all have a normal....

- ***Normal*** is how we respond to situations.
- ***Normal*** is what people expect of us in given parts of our lives.
- ***Normal*** is our spiritual condition

- It is our disposition
- It is our character Within our Normal is our expectations of Life.
- It's our dreams
- Our hopes - Our desires
- It's what ***satisfies us and causes us to be happy.***

Normal - We all have one!!!

- Each of ours is ***different***, but in many ways ***they are alike.***
- If you could write down on a sheet of paper ***"your normal", what would it say?***

Hopeful? Expecting? Happy? Satisfied? *Engaged in Life?*

Whatever our normal is, John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came to make our normal better. – “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” - Jesus described it as More Abundant.

I was in Berlin (Amish country) with family to spend the weekend.

- I was talking to the founder of **Hershberger’s** and asked how he was.
- He said, **Not Good!** I asked him where he was going for help.
- He **did not** know. Apparently his world was pretty small.
- He **didn’t** travel much beyond his farm, church, and the businesses he needed to visit there in Berlin.
- He really **could not** tell me about much outside of **Berlin His Normal**.
- It’s all he’s **ever known**.
- **His religious beliefs** and way of life **keep him isolated** from the rest of the world so **His normal is very different than your normal**.
- Yet, it is **His normal**, And I’m sure **he enjoys his normal**.
- It all seemed very **simplicistic and serene** in a way to me actually.

But **we are not** really talking about where we live or how far we’ve traveled outside of Berlin.

We are talking about our **spiritual condition** and God’s desire **to give us a new normal**.

Someone might say, **I don’t like my normal – Spiritually**

- I wish things could be different.
- I wish I could be closer to God.
- I wish ***I knew Jesus*** on a more personal level.
- I wish my life was different, ***I could serve God more***.

I remember as a young man lifting weights.

- We called it our Max.
- What could we Max out at...
- I liked bench pressing.
- I remember when I was very young when my max was 70 pounds.

Upper classmen laughed at me. But hey *that's all I had to give*.

- However, I kept working out and pretty soon my normal changed.
- Pretty soon it was 90 pounds, then 100 then 125 then 150, then 175
- ***My normal kept increasing***.
- My normal kept growing.
- Where I was the week before was not where I was at the next week.

It took a while, but pretty soon, ***I was way past my original normal***.

Here's where many people trip up ***in their walk with God***.

- They think that **normal** has to stay normal.
- That they can't grow beyond where they are at.

That they are stuck!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Stuck in life
- Stuck in their walk with God
- **Unable to move forward**, and ***trapped*** right where they are...
- Sometimes for the rest of their life.
- **Aren't you glad you know Jesus Christ today?**
- Aren't you glad **you know the one** who came ***to give us Life***
- **AND - *That more abundantly?***

There is no one but you who can put limitations on you.

Your life is simply that – your life.

- You control it - You decide.
- ***What you do with your life is up to you.***

You can stay in Spiritual Berlin till Jesus comes if you like, ***Never growing***.

- ***Never maxing out*** at a new level
- Never going beyond the boarders of where you've already been.

You can choose a new normal.

- You can decide that today, ***something is going to change*** in your life.
- That new boundaries are going happen
- That new horizons are going to be reached

That ***who you were*** this morning when you woke up is not going to be who you are when you go to bed this evening.

Jesus is not interested in helping people stay where they are.

If you are comfortable and ***not really wanting to*** grow spiritually or experience the Abundant Life

- I just want you to know ***that you probably are not going to be comfortable***.
- Jesus doesn't do normal.
- He was ***constantly shaking things up*** for the religious folk.
- Doing things that for hundreds of years, they never even thought of doing.

In fact they considered it **blasphemy** if you did.

- Healing on the Sabbath, **that's not normal!**
- **Eating and drinking with sinners** – who does that?

Very little about Jesus was **Normal**.

- His birth was **not normal**.
- His childhood was **not normal**.
- His adolescence was **not normal**.
- His ministry was **not normal**.
- **His death, burial and resurrection** sure **wasn't normal**.
- And yet, that **absence of Normal** is what we hang our hat on ***when it comes to salvation.***

Resurrection... Who does that?

- We all know that **without His resurrection**, we have **no hope!**
- But resurrection was **not normal!**
- Aren't you glad Jesus **didn't stick to normal?**

We have hope today because Jesus didn't stick to normal.

So why do we think we're supposed to be normal?

Romans 8:37-39 – NKJV - 37 Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Now a conqueror is not normal.

- Paul goes on to say that we are **“More” than conquerors.**
- Other words, if your **“Normal” is a conqueror.**
- Then vs 37 says that you are **“More than conquerors through Him that Loves us.”**

That’s someone whose, **Normal has found a New normal.**

- Someone says, I’ve found a **“new normal”**
- Jesus has a **“new normal” for your “new normal.”**

2 Corinthians 5:17 – NKJV - ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a **new** creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become **new.**

Philippians 3:14 – NKJV - ¹⁴ I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

*****Lame man at the Gate Beautiful.**

His normal was just laying there.

- But when Jesus healed him... **His normal changed.**
- **He got up,** leaping, dancing and praising God!
- The next morning... **He didn’t** wake up and just go back to laying around.
- Or begging at the Gate Beautiful.

He Got up!!!!

- Put his own close on.
- Fixed his own breakfast.
- Went looking for a job, a new place to stay, a church to attend...
- Hey, **I’m just supposing,** but you can see it...

His normal Changed his normal which changed **His normal**

*****Adulteress woman thrown at Jesus feet**. Jesus saves her life literally by not judging her.

- What do you think happened after that?
- **Her normal changed**.
- She went and put some clothes on.
- Maybe she moved out of the neighborhood.
- Went shopping for a new wardrobe – a few things not so promiscuous.
- Less revealing - More modest

Went and poured out all her cologne on Jesus feet.

- Started attending some Bible Studies and church services.
- Went looking for a new profession.
- Started hanging out with a different crowd.

Her Normal Changed!!!

*****CLOSE: Are you ready for a New Normal?**

Are you ready for your old person to die out and your new person to come alive with hope and Abundance?

- **Lame man at the Gate Beautiful**.
- **Adulteress woman thrown at Jesus feet**.
- **THEY GOT UP!!!**
- **Their Normal CHANGED!!!**

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Romans 8:37-39 – NKJV - 37 Yet in all these things **we are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us.

Your more than a conquer, Do you need a NEW NORMAL, In Christ ALL things ARE NEW!!!!

Philippians 1:6 - NKJV - ⁶being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it**

