

Bridgeway Community Church
Pastor Dr. David Anderson
October 03, 2021

HIGH FIVE!

Mighty in Fullness

“Today what I want to do is talk to you about the overflow of the fullness of Christ when your life is committed to him and when he fills you with the power of his Holy Spirit. Because when the fullness of Christ becomes a reality in your life and in my life then we can indeed become mature & mighty in Christ.”

Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV84

It was he who gave some to be the apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the WHOLE measure of the FULLNESS of Christ.

John 10:10 NIV84

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the FULL.”

The thief is the devil. Satan.

When Jesus says he has come that you might have life to the full, he is offering us Himself!

It's in Jesus Christ that we find our most fulfilled lives.

It is in Jesus that we find our fullest selves!

John 1:14 NIV84

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Beyond material possessions, popularity, and positional status, a life that is full in Christ experiences meaning, purpose, and a sense of true fulfillment. The perishable & temporary things of this life are nice to experience, but they do not give you ultimate satisfaction and fulfillment.

Question: What does Jesus mean when he talks about the “thief” coming to steal, kill, and destroy?

Answer: The thief can only take what you have!

“Thieves don’t steal nothing! You have to have something in order for them to steal it. If you didn’t have anything, there would be no need for the thief to steal. You have possessions in Christ.”

“If you didn’t have life, then he’d have nothing to kill. You can have life in Christ.”

“If you didn’t have anything, then there would be nothing to destroy!”

“I’ve just come to tell you today that you have everything you need in Christ.”

REPEAT AFTER ME: “I HAVE EVERYTHING IN CHRIST! ALL I NEED, ALL I AM, ALL I WILL EVER BE, IS FOUND IN CHRIST!”

1 Peter 1:18-19 NIV84

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the EMPTY WAY OF LIFE handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

The precious blood of Christ washes you

The precious blood of Christ bought you

The precious blood of Christ was shed for you has redeemed you from the enemy who tried to take your life!

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD of Jesus Christ redeems us in such a way that our lives no longer have to be emptied out & hollowed out by the things of this world which give us temporary satisfaction.

“The good new...is we do not have to keep living the empty way of life that Peter is talking about in 1 Peter 1:18.”

“It is a [empty] life that is always trying to fill itself with possessions, with people, places, and things that don’t satisfy. It is a life of behaviors that takes joy from your soul leaving you only wanting more but feeling less.”

Let’s look at our key passage of this series:

Ephesians 4:13 NIV84

until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the **WHOLE** measure of the **FULLNESS** of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18 NIV84

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the **EMPTY WAY OF LIFE** handed down to you from your forefathers

The Apostle Paul mentions	“the WHOLE MEASURE OF FULLNESS. ” (Ephesians 4:13)
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The Apostle Peter mentions	the “ EMPTY WAY OF LIFE. ” (1 Peter 1:18)
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Question: Which one do you want? The Empty Way or The Full Way? The Hollow Way or The Whole Way?

You can choose to be **HOLLOW** or **WHOLE**?

If you choose to be hollow, then you will keep trying to fill your life with everything else but Christ. Christians and non-Christians alike often fill their lives with everything else, but Christ.

PURSUIITS	that busy them
PEOPLE	that bug them
POSSESSIONS	that burden them
POPULARITY	that blinds them
PRIORITIES	that bury them
PLACES	that bankrupt them

Question: “If I have all these things, why am I still unfulfilled?”

Answer: Because all those things are temporary and lack the purpose for which you have been created. When you live a life on point, when you live a life of purpose, when you focus on producing fruit and pleasing God, you will experience a life of fullness in Christ.

Q: What does a life that is WHOLE and FULL in Christ look like?

First of all, we must remember that we already have the fullness of Christ if we have Christ!

“I already have it! I don’t have to just go do things to be full in Christ.”

John 14:6 NIV84

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 10:10 NIV84

Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the FULL.”

“The first thing we must recognize is that we already have the fullness if we have Christ.”

Colossians 1:19 ESV

For in him [Christ] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

Colossians 2:10 NIV84

and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

Question: What did Paul mean when he told the Ephesians in 4:13 to attain “the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”?

“...it is not until you dip the bucket of your spiritual life into the things of God, that you will become mature & mighty in Christ. There are many Christians who are standing in the abundance of Christ positionally and theologically, but have not filled their spiritual buckets of faith with the abundance of Christ.”

“Sometimes it’s not that we don’t have the capacity to receive all that God has given us, it’s that we are occupied with other things and until we let go of those other things we can’t catch everything that God has for us.”

7 Qualities to possess a WHOLE and FULFILLING life (2 Peter 1:3-8)

2 Peter 1:3 NIV84

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

YOU HAVE ALL YOU NEED. FULLNESS!

2 Peter 1:4 NIV84

Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption of the world caused by evil desires.

PRECIOUS PROMISES; EARLIER WE TALKED ABOUT HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD

2 Peter 1:5-7 NIV84

For this very reason, make every effort to ADD TO YOUR FAITH goodness; and to goodness, knowledge ⁶ and to knowledge, self control, and to self-control, perseverance, and to perseverance, godliness ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness, love.

7 QUALITIES RIGHT THERE THAT ALLOW THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST TO OVERFLOW IN YOU. DIP YOUR PERSONAL/SPIRITUAL BUCKET OF FAITH INTO THESE WATERS AND FILL IT WITH THESE THINGS!

2 Peter 1:8 NIV84

For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In other words, if you want to be effective and productive, fruitful & faithful, successful, living on point with a purpose, then add these things to your life in “increasing measure” as you attain “the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

SERMON SUMMARY IN A SENTENCE:

JESUS’ PRECIOUS BLOOD & PRECIOUS PROMISES GIVES ME ALL THE ABUNDANCE I NEED TO FILL MY PERSONAL BUCKET SO THAT I CAN OVERFLOW WITH THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST!

ONE PRACTICAL APPLICATION

SEEK TO REPLACE THE EMPTY & HOLLOW THINGS OF LIFE WITH THESE 7 BEAUTIFUL QUALITIES.

Do a study on these 7 qualities.

MY CLOSING PRAYER FOR YOU

May the God of abundance give you a life that ADDS UP & OVERFLOWS in Him so you will be MIGHTY IN THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST!!

Ephesians 3:17b-19 NIV84

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.