

# THE DAILY AMEN Devotional

## January 17, 2018 by Amy Dalke

I thought it might be good today to throw out a reminder of what we're doing here. This whole Daily Amen thing started with the question,

*"What would life be like this year if I believe God is really real,  
and all his promises for me are true?"*

In light of that question, we decided to practice living out the truth of what God says about us... to practice saying YES to God every day of our lives this year. We made up our minds to live by faith in God's promises to us, regardless of what our circumstances shout at us to believe.

So, with that in mind, here's the kicker. If we're going to believe God is true to what he promised...what do we do with this one?

*Jesus said, "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."  
(John 10:10)*

I genuinely hope that you are living out the full life Jesus died to give you. If that's the case, take a seat right here because we need you as an example. (I'm totally serious.)

While you sit there, my words today will address the rest of us (myself included), who often wonder how the whole "life abundantly" thing actually works. First of all, let's notice the contrast in this verse.

1) **The thief's sole purpose is to take from us.** Isn't it ironic that we often view God as the taker? (I'll leave that one for you to ponder later.)

2) **Jesus is a Giver.** He came to give us life, *abundantly*, not take it away. The word translated as *abundant* is from a Greek word that means "exceedingly, beyond measure, a quantity so abundant that it is considerably more than what one would expect or anticipate."

### Okay, but what does this abundant-better-than-expected life look like?

[Disclaimer: my only credentials here are that I love Jesus, I'm enamored with his word, and he and I hang out on the regular. While I believe my thoughts and perceptions here are inspired by the Spirit of Jesus in me, I don't have a PhD in Abundant Life Studies, which is a degree I just made up, and I don't claim to be an expert on, well, anything really.]

So, with that, I'll tell you a story. A couple of months ago, I asked God how to experience abundant life in my ordinary days. I knew He would tell me something, so I sat and waited. (Truth be told, I half expected a burning bush, but then remembered that fires around here mostly occur in the kitchen area, so there's that.)

I sat and waited some more.

Then a thought dropped in mind from out of nowhere, so I grabbed a notebook, and I furiously poured words onto the page as the thought grew and grew.

I'm about to share another part of my journal with you, and it feels a little awkward. Especially because you might be reading this, but we've never actually met. (Then again, the people who read what I write typically consist of my mom plus 4 other close friends, and maybe a pastor, so we're probably good.)

Here's what I wrote, unedited because nobody's got time for that:

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November 6, 2017

**Life is now. Right here.**

*I miss much of the life's fullness because I spend most of my time in the future.  
And that's not where abundant life is. It's here and now.*

*While Jesus sits with me in today, eager to show me all the small and wonderful gifts of life going on around me, I don't notice him at all. Mostly because my mind is tied up on what happens next. Instead of being aware of Right Now, I'm visualizing tomorrow's stories, and imagining how I can possibly squeeze Target in between school pick up, running, and cooking dinner. (Oh yeah, they do need to eat again.)*

*Instead of experiencing the abundance of life in the Right Now, I'm frantically arranging the next moment - foolishly attempting to control what hasn't even happened yet.*

*The Enemy is a taker. He has fooled me into believing God isn't good and that I need to find comfort in things and money and people's opinions. The whole time I'm mentally escaping the present moment by seeking to acquire all the stuff I need to be happy, he's sneaking all the really good things out my own back door. (Jerk.)*

*When I'm not leaping ahead, I'm rehashing yesterday...analyzing what was said, what went wrong, how they were wrong, and what they need to fix.*

**Real life only exists right now, so spend time here. Be with Jesus here.**

*Is this what God meant with that whole "be still and know that I am God" thing?  
The Spirit can only influence my life to the extent that I listen for his guidance instead of impatiently running life by my own agenda. (Umm, I'm really uncomfortable right now!)*

*Today...Right Now is where Jesus wants me to stay because that's where real life is.*

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So, there you have it. Maybe that's what Jesus wants you to hear today:

Stay in the Right Now.

Trust him to take care of tomorrow.

Then you'll be able to experience the overflowing life in this present moment.

Your friend,  
Amy

(Did I not just sound sort of like a calm yoga instructor or something?) (Your eye rolls are welcome.)