

Plentitude, On Having and Being

Building Community in a Separated World

"... to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:19



Plentitude

Plentitude: The condition of being full, ample, complete, in unity, and in communion, also described as a place of moving into the inexhaustible mystery, a place of “being” verses “becoming,” of “having” verses “possessing.”

Questions

1. How do we define “being full”? How do we define fullness in relationship to material wealth?
2. Does completeness mean being materially wealthy?
3. How do we define fullness in the body of Christ?
4. Is there a relationship between stewardship, having and plentitude, and abundance?
5. Is there is a vertical relationship between material abundance, plentitude, having and being? How does this manifest in our everyday lives?

Texts for Contemplation and Meditation

Boaz replied, "I've been told all about what you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband—how you left your father and mother and your homeland and came to live with a people you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD repay you for what you have done. May you be **richly rewarded** by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge." **Ruth 2:11-12 (NIV)**

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

Plentitude (πληρωω): Biblically, “to make full,” often translated fullness, complete, to abound.

The Consciousness Of Plenitude

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Plenitude

Plenitude is a state of being in which we experience a fullness beyond description. We go into the inexhaustible mystery, moving from a place of clinging to a place of 'experiential plenitude' that is predicated by a change in one's own consciousness and way of looking at the world. This movement is built on trust and a divine assurance described by the Psalmist in Psalms 23.

Shifts: Moving Toward Plenitude, Having and Being ...

Life



Death



Rebirth Process

Possession, Control, and Grasping... We have attitudes of holding onto, protection, worry, doubt, fear, aggression, control.

Are we in control of our lives?

Can we move from a mindset of possessing things (in which we objectify them), from a place where we think we have control to a place where we surrender control?

What is the concept of control based on? A causal view of reality? An understanding of cause and effect?

Is material wealth a source of power in our lives or a tool that we use in service?

Do we maintain mechanisms of protection in our lives? Are these reasonable?

What is the difference between a boundary by manifestation and one of protection?

Plenitude, Having and Being ...

We develop attitudes of thankfulness, gratitude, mystery, a looking forward to, "the trust trusting the trust," and joyfulness.

How do we know when we are experiencing a movement toward plenitude, having and being?

The concept of self is not based on having things.

The concept of self in relationship is not based on 'having possession of people' but rather a sense of playing a manifest part in a symphonic chorus.

We live the concept of surrender and doing God's will instead of self-protection. We live the concept of helplessness and defenselessness, and yet we take pro-active steps.

We build trust based on clear risk taking.

We build relationships based on respect and mutually supportive process.

Our relationships to things, people, and experiences all change.

Plenitude is when all we can say is "Thank you God."

 The Mission

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⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵Thou preparast a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 timothy 6:6-10