



#### **Finding Fullness - Part 4 - "The Full Life"**

##### **Colossians 1:13-14 & 19-20 (NIV)**

*13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

##### **Ephesians 3:14–19 (NIV)**

*14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. 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.*

##### **John 15:5-8 (NIV)**

*5 "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. 6 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. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

##### **Romans 8:31-39 (NIV)**

*31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

## **Key Points**

- Integrity is not a destination; rather, it is a condition where the strength at the core governs our thoughts, attitudes, and actions.
- Integrity involves having the character to faithfully meet the demands of reality while maintaining hope.
- Thinking of life as a destination places our faith in the belief that things will improve when circumstances do. The alternative to destination thinking is a state of dependence. If a specific destination doesn't drive us, we must place our trust in His grace.
- We need to define our sense of fulfillment within the context of the reality that is available to us.
- Resisting dependence is rooted in pride.
- Fullness is the experience of God's grace as being sufficient.
- Humility positions us to experience grace, which is the sustaining force in our life with God in His Kingdom.
- "Consider it joy" is not an intellectual exercise aimed at making sense of life's challenges but an opportunity to encounter something greater than the heartaches of living in a broken world.
- Navigating chaos faithfully and with hope is not solely a matter of willpower but also an issue of identity.
- God's grace is sufficient to uphold and sustain us through any season.
- Having the character to meet the demands of reality is a product of faith.

## **READ**

*Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:*

- **Read Colossians 1:13-14,19-20.** What has Christ rescued us from and invited us to experience?
- **Read Ephesians 3:14-19.** How would you put Paul's prayer for the church in Ephesus in your own words?
- **Read John 15:5-8.** What connection is there between our willingness to remain connected to Christ and our ability to find the fullness of life we crave?
- **Read Romans 8:31-39.** How does God use hardship and adversity to mold and shape us?

## **REFLECT**

- **Complete the following sentence: Integrity is \_\_\_\_\_.** What makes you look at integrity in this way? How does relying on integrity help us navigate the world around us full of hope?
- **What are some warning signs that you're caught in destination thinking?**

## **RESPOND**

- **Resisting dependence is rooted in pride. Are there places in your life where you find yourself resisting depending on God? How is pride fueling this tension?**
- **In what ways is God using these circumstances to shape and mold your character?**
- **What would it look like for you to display humility and declare your dependency in this situation?**

## **PRAY**

**Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.**