

Huddle

*Living in 4G - The Edge or 4G?
June 8, 2013*

What do you enjoy most about cellular technology?

The cellular companies are always competing to offer more through their networks. Verizon claims to be better because they are faster with an all 4G network. AT&T claims to be better because they offer 4G and Edge so they have service in more places. It can become a bit confusing so let's review the difference:

We don't all choose to have 4G cellular internet. For many it seems expensive to upgrade. Some are content with an older phone or maybe they don't want cellular internet.

We make similar decisions concerning our spiritual lives. Today, we will look at scriptures which outline God's equivalent to 4G as we begin our series - Living in 4G.

John 10:9-10 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. 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.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

What do you think Jesus was trying to convey when He said we could have life more abundantly?

Just like we have seen a rapid progression in cellular technology in the last twenty years, there has been a rapid progression in your physical and spiritual life. God has nudged you toward abundance while there has been an enemy battling to steal, kill, and destroy. Where you could once settle in for the Edge spiritually, now you have grown and can choose to live in 4G.

What would you include if you were to personally define a 4G abundant life?

Pastor Phil researched abundantly and abounding in the Greek. He found it means super abundant, superior, excessive, beyond measure, superfluous, to have more or make more, enough to spare, remaining over.

Sometimes it is good to define something by what it is not. What would be the opposite of living in 4G?

The danger spiritually is in choosing the Edge - just getting by - having enough spiritually to go to heaven but not enough to enjoy an abundant Christian life. We began offering PURSUE events to help you go beyond the Edge.

Spiritually, it used to be enough to live on the edge. But maybe it is too close to the spiritual abyss of flirting with the enemy rather than in the middle of God's 4G life.

- 4G is the 4th generation of wireless cellular standards with extreme internet capabilities which are 10x faster than 3G. It is available in larger cities and more populated areas.
- The Edge is the first generation standards which are still the only available wireless cellular internet in remote areas. It works but is much slower.

Are you "blessed" to have 4G? Why or why not?

Let's Get Real!

The Edge doesn't sound like what Jesus was offering. Paul laid it out more plainly. We are to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.

If your life were a cellular technology, where have you been this week - Voice only, Edge, 3G, 4G, etc? Why?

Our abundance level is all about connection! The more connected we are to Jesus as our "door", the more we will see super abundance. Remember, He is the man who miraculously fed 4,000 and 5,000 with an abundance of leftovers remaining.

Pastor gave us four mandates from scripture which are necessary for abundant living.

- **Living in Gratefulness.** God has given us an abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness so we can be grateful toward ourselves and others. (Colossians 2:5, Romans 5:17)
How can you live more gratefully?
- **Living in Grace.** God loves a cheerful giver! He challenges us to give of possessions but also to abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:7)
How would you like grace to increase your giving?
- **Living in Growth.** Paul charged us to a steadfast, abounding life because we know our labor is not in vain.
What growth pattern have you established (or would like to establish) for your life?
- **Living in God.** To live abundantly, we must be firmly established in God's love or all the "work" will seem in vain. This is probably the hardest part of living a 4G life - continually returning to God's great love for you and experiencing His Presence. (1 Thessalonians 3:11, 4:9)
How do you continually return to God's love?

Walk it Out

What steps will you take this week to live your life in 4G abundance?