

“I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

A popular trend on television for the past several years has been reality survival shows: people leave the security and comfort of their lives in the civilized world behind to test their mettle in the untamed wilderness against Mother Nature. These shows fascinate us for a number of reasons, but perhaps one of the main reasons is that they evoke for us one of our most basic needs: survival. Like any living organism, we instinctively desire to continue living, and like the survival shows remind us, we will go to almost any length to ensure that.

I said almost any length. There are limits to how far we as human beings can or will respond to our survival instinct, physically, psychologically, and spiritually. That is because, unlike other living organisms, we human beings have a still deeper need than survival – a hunger for life beyond the limits of this world. That is precisely what Christ came to give us, and what he does give us, if we but let him.

That is the ultimate survival challenge, and we don't have to be dropped off in the middle of the jungle with nothing but a pocket knife and box of matches to confront it. We confront it right where we are, facing choices that can determine our eternal destiny every day. All we have to do is say yes to the life which Christ gives and to let our yes to Christ drive our other choices. If we do that, whatever challenges may come, we will do much more than just survive. We will truly live.