

The Reality of Abiding in Christ

July 2, 2017

John 15:1-6 NASB

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 "**Abide** (*meno - remain, dwell, endure, continue to be present, kept*) **in Me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Abiding in Christ is a posture of the heart which brings the reality of His presence.

James 4:8 NASB

8 **Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.**

"We need never shout across the spaces to an absent God. He is nearer than our own soul, closer than our most secret thoughts." — A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

Isaiah 29:13 NASB

13 Then the Lord said, "**Because this people draw near with their words and honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from Me."**

Psalm 51:16-17 NASB

16 **For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

17 **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

Hebrews 10:22 NASB

22 **let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

Hebrews 12:1-2 NASB

1 **...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,**

2 **fixing our eyes (*aphorao - looking away from all else*) on Jesus...**

SURRENDERING OUR MINDS...

Romans 8:5 NASB

5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds (*phroneo* - to exercise the mind, to direct one's mind) on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

"You aren't the only one to be distracted from the presence of God; I understand completely. Our minds are so flighty. However, remember that our God-given wills govern all of our strength. We must recall our minds to God. Otherwise, our spirits may wander, dragging us down to the things of this earth."

--Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God, Eighth Letter

SURRENDERING OUR AFFECTIONS...

Psalm 63:3-5 NASB

3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips will praise You.

4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.

"I bear my testimony that there is no joy to be found in all this world like that of sweet communion with Christ. I would barter all else there is of heaven for that. Indeed, that is heaven. As for the harps of gold and the streets like clear glass and the songs of seraphs and the shouts of the redeemed, one could very well give all these up, counting them as a drop in a bucket, if we might forever live in fellowship and communion with Jesus." — Charles H. Spurgeon

SURRENDERING OUR WILL...

John 4:34 NASB

34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work."

"Just as a servant knows that he must first obey his master in all things, so the surrender to an implicit and unquestionable obedience must become the essential characteristic of our lives."

--Andrew Murray

"No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life, wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him." - Dwight L. Moody

"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender." - William Booth

"Let God have your life; He can do more with it than you can." --D.L.Moody

"If my life is surrendered to God, all is well. Let me not grab it back, as though it were in peril in His hand but would be safer in mine!" -- Elisabeth Elliot

Abiding in Christ is the immediate, momentary and continual awareness of and communion with God's presence. Abiding in Christ is not a location, but a relationship.

"The continuous and unembarrassed interchange of love and thought between God and the soul of the redeemed man is the throbbing heart of New Testament religion."

"This intercourse between God and the soul is known to us in conscious personal awareness...It is conscious: it does not stay below the threshold of consciousness and work there unknown to the soul...but comes within the field of awareness where the man can know it as he knows any other fact of experience." --A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

"Modern civilization is so complex as to make the devotional life all but impossible. It wears us out by multiplying distractions and beats us down by destroying our solitude, where otherwise we might drink and renew our strength before going out to face the world again.

"The thoughtful soul to solitude retires," said the poet of other and quieter times; but where is the solitude to which we can retire today? Science, which has provided men with certain material comforts, has robbed them of their souls by surrounding them with a world hostile to their existence.

"Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still" is a wise and healing counsel, but how can it be followed in this day of the newspaper, the telephone, the radio and the television? These modern playthings, like pet tiger cubs, have grown so large and dangerous that they threaten to devour us all. What was intended to be a blessing has become a positive curse. No spot is now safe from the world's intrusion."

-- A.W. Tozer, "Of God and Men" 1960

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NASB

16 Rejoice always;

17 pray without ceasing;

18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 John 2:24 NASB

24 As for you, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 2:27-28 NASB

27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

28 Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.

1 John 4:13 NASB

13 By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

Romans 8:14-16 NASB

14 For all who are being led (*ago - bring, carry, conduct, lead by laying hold of, carry*) **by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

Abiding in Christ moment-by-moment in the midst of great distractions, noise and demands depends upon time devoted to prayer in solitude and quietness.

Matthew 14:23 NASB

23 After He had sent the crowds away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray; and when it was evening, He was there alone.

"Such communion with God is meant to be ours during the whole day, whatever our condition or circumstances. But its enjoyment depends upon the reality of the communion we have with God in the inner chamber. The power for maintaining close and glad fellowship with God all day will depend largely upon the intensity with which we seek to secure it in the time of secret prayer." --Andrew Murray, The Inner Chamber, The Doors Shut

Abiding in Christ is the conscious and experiential flow of the Christ living within and through your words and actions. The awareness of this life-flow is not sensual or emotional, but is actual and spiritual. By relationship, the branch has all the vine possesses continuously flowing.

John 15:5 NASB

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Galatians 2:20 NASB

20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me."

Romans 8:11 NASB

11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies** through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2 Corinthians 4:16 NASB

16 Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day.

Ephesians 3:16-17 NASB

16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...