

Abiding in Jesus' Death

July 9, 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](#)

"Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one." — A.W. Tozer

Abiding in Christ is the immediate, momentary and continual awareness of and communion with God's presence.

"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..."

"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?...No spot is now safe from the world's intrusion." -- A.W. Tozer, Of God and Men 1960

Unbroken Communion Requires:

- **Surrender of the Mind** *"...Set their minds..."* (Romans 8:5)
- **Surrender of the Affections** *"My soul is satisfied..."* (Psalm 63:3-5)
- **Surrender of the Will** *"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me..."* (John 4:34)

"When the habit of inwardly gazing Godward becomes fixed within us, we shall be ushered into a new level of spiritual life..." -- A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, "A New Level of Spirituality"

ABIDING IN CHRIST IS TO ABIDE IN HIS DEATH AND ALL HIS DEATH ACCOMPLISHED

Colossians 3:5-8 ESV

5 **Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.**

6 **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.**

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

8 **But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.**

The Futility of Self-Discipline

"After conversion, a man begins to do his best, and he fails...God allows that failure so that the regenerate man should be taught his own utter ability. It is in the course of this struggle that the sense of our utter sinfulness comes to us. It is God's way of dealing with us. He allows man to strive to fulfill the law so that, as he strives and wrestles, he may be brought to this: 'I am a regenerate child of God, but I am utterly helpless to obey His law.'" — Andrew Murray, Absolute Surrender

"Now we cannot...discover our failure to keep God's law except by trying our very hardest (and then failing). Unless we really try, whatever we say there will always be at the back of our minds the idea that if we try harder next time we shall succeed in being completely good... All this trying leads up to the vital moment at which you turn to God and say, "You must do this. I can't." — C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

"All failures of the Christian life are due to this one thing, that we seek to do in our own strength what God Himself by His Spirit alone can work in us...To die to self, to come from under it's power, cannot be done by any active resistance we can make to it by the power of nature (self-will, self-discipline - RHM). To exchange the life of self for the life of God...is a work we cannot do." — Andrew Murray, Freedom from a Self-Centered Life

"The man who has struggled to purify himself and has had nothing but repeated failures will experience real relief when he stops tinkering with his soul and looks away to the perfect One. While he looks at Christ the very things he has so long been trying to do will be getting done within him. It will be God working in him to will and to do." — A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God

"The reason why many are still troubled, still seeking, still making little forward progress is because they haven't yet come to the end of themselves. We're still trying to give orders, and interfering with God's work within us." — A.W. Tozer,

"Let us beware of tinkering with our inner life. God must do everything for us. Our part is to yield and trust."

— A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, "Removing the Self-Life Veil"

Romans 7:15-18 ESV

15 For **I do not understand my own actions.** For I do not do what I want, but **I do the very thing I hate.**

16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that **nothing good dwells in me,** that is, in my flesh. For **I have the desire** to do what is right, **but not the ability to carry it out.**

Romans 6:3-14 ESV

3 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into his death?**

4 **We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death,** in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 We know that **our old self was crucified with him** in order that **the body of sin might be brought to nothing,** so that we would **no longer be enslaved to sin.**

7 For **one who has died has been set free from sin.**

8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

11 So **you also must consider** (*logizomai - to compute, calculate, reckon, deem, judge*) **yourselves dead to sin** and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 **Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body,** to make you obey its passions.

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but **present yourselves to God** as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

14 For **sin will have no dominion over you,** since you are not under law but **under grace.**

Our freedom from temptation and sin does not come from our self-discipline, but from Jesus' death on the cross. Therefore the power over sin must come by faith, not effort.

When temptation comes:

- **Resist the fleshly urge to exert the force of self-will or self-discipline.**

Galatians 5:2-6 NASB

2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, **Christ will be of no benefit to you.**

3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law.

4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

- **Remember and put your faith in what Jesus accomplished on the cross for you.**

Romans 6:6-7

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.

Colossians 2:11-12 ESV

11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

- **Call out to God for help.**

Hebrews 2:18 ESV

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 4:15-16 ESV

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Surrender to the flow of the Holy Spirit.**

Romans 6:13 ESV

13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

Galatians 5:16 ESV

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Romans 8:2 ESV

2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.