

Abiding in Jesus' Resurrection

July 16, 2017

ABIDING IN CHRIST is the CONSCIOUS (*perceiving that something exists and is happening*) and MOMENTARY (*operative and recurring every moment*) EXPERIENCE of the life of Christ flowing through you, expressing Himself in your thoughts, words and behavior.

Romans 6:4-5 ESV

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.

"Our error today is that we do not expect a converted man to be a transformed man, and as a result of this error our churches are full of substandard Christians." — A.W. Tozer

John 7:37-38 NASB

37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink.

38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"

The experience of this life-flow is not mystical, sensual, or emotional, but is spiritual and literal. By relationship, the branch has all that the vine possesses in a continuous flow.

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."

For the child of God, abiding in Christ is not optional. To not abide in Christ is to walk in the flesh and the self-righteousness of the flesh can be very deceiving. "I'm nice to people. I'm not committing the 'big' sins. I don't harm or abuse anyone. I try to help when I can. I'm a hard worker. I'm accomplishing a lot."

There is no "neutral zone"; no respectable or acceptable morality or spirituality between spirit and flesh, light and darkness, righteousness and sin. "...apart from Me you can do nothing." The only option for the child of God is for the self-life to be crucified.

Isaiah 64:6 NASB

6 For all of us have become like one who is unclean, And all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment; And all of us wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

John 15:6 NASB

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.

The eternal consequence of not abiding in Christ is damnation.

Galatians 2:20 NASB

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

Any spiritual victory and success was the result of abiding in Christ. There is no temptation, no sin, no trial, no tragedy that can overtake you when you are abiding in Christ.

Any spiritual failure in trials and temptations was the result of not abiding in Christ, because of distraction, enticement, self-will (rebellion) or trial.

Galatians 5:16 ESV

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

If we are not walking by the greater power of the Holy Spirit, then we default to walking in the flesh and sin is crouching at the door. It is only a matter of time and circumstance before we fall.

Genesis 4:7 NASB

"...if you [Cain] do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it."

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 (*anakainōō* - to make new, new strength, new vigour, changed into a new kind of life) day by day.

Philippians 1:21 NASB

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Abiding in Christ is as easy as, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." James 4:8 NASB

How do we abide, experience and remain in this life-flow of Jesus?

1. Dependence

The inner sense of our desperate need is what drives us to dependency. It will be hard to abide in Christ until you lose all hope in your self-life.

"Are we living at such a level of human dependence upon Jesus Christ that his life is being exhibited moment by moment in us?" -- Oswald Chambers

Romans 7:18 ESV

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.**

Psalm 123:1-2 NASB

1 A Song of Ascents. **To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens!**

2 **Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He is gracious to us.**

2. **Surrender**

As we are surrendered and fully yoked with Jesus, no matter how difficult or painful the circumstances, His grace and life flowing through us will make all things easy and light. But first our will, agenda and desires must die to His yoke.

Matthew 11:28-30 NASB

28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

29 "**Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**

30 "For **My yoke is easy and My burden is light.**"

3. **Prayer**

There is NO abiding in Christ without preparation. The presence of God that you secure in the quietness and stillness of your private communion with Him, will be His abiding presence that you take with you through the day. There are no alternative options.

Mark 1:32-39 NASB

32 When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed.

33 And the whole city had gathered at the door.

34 And He healed many who were ill with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was.

35 **In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there.**

36 Simon and his companions searched for Him;

37 they found Him, and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."

38 He said to them, "Let us go somewhere else to the towns nearby, so that I may preach there also; for that is what I came for."

39 And He went into their synagogues throughout all Galilee, preaching and casting out the demons.