

How to Abide in Jesus

September 16, 2018

John 15:1-11 ESV

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 does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

4 Abide (meno - remain, stay, dwell, live, not to depart, to continue to be present, to remain as one) in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

CONTINUAL AWARENESS / CONSCIOUSNESS

- *The cares, busyness, distractions and attractions of this temporal life are powerful enough (along with our five senses) to completely eclipse the spiritual and eternal.*

Genesis 28:16-17 ESV

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it."

17 And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Judges 16:20 ESV

20 And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

Psalms 139:1-10 ESV To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

3 You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

4 Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

- 5 **You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.
7 **Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?**
8 If I ascend to heaven, **you are there!** If I make my bed in Sheol, **you are there!**
9 If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
10 **even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.**

“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”

CONTINUAL MEDITATION / EXERCISING THE MIND

- *You will never abide in Jesus without controlling your thought life.*

Romans 8:5-6 ESV

- 5 **For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on (*phroneō* - to exercise the mind, to direct one's mind to a thing, to seek, strive for) the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.**
6 **For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.**

Psalms 1:2-3 ESV

- 2 **but his delight is in the law of the LORD,**
and on his law he meditates day and night.
3 **He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.** In all that he does, he prospers.

CONTINUAL COMMUNION / WORSHIP

- *The child of God should feel completely disoriented when not in active intercourse with His Father.*
- *Loving and enjoying God's presence, fellowship and companionship is the very heart of abiding in Jesus.*

James 4:8 ESV

- 8 **Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

- 16 **Rejoice always,**
17 **pray without ceasing,**
18 **give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**

Philippians 4:4-7 ESV

- 4 **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.**
5 **Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;**
6 **do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**
7 **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 8:26 ESV

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

“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*, “The Glorious Pursuit”

CONTINUAL SURRENDER / DEATH

- *Before we can abide in His life, we must also abide in His death.*
- *It is impossible to experience His life without first experiencing His death.*

John 15:2-3 ESV

2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.

Hebrews 12:5-6 ESV

5 And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

2 Corinthians 4:7-12 ESV

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;

10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

CONTINUAL DEPENDANCE / DRAWING

- *Self-reliance and self-sufficiency are the greatest barriers and enemies of abiding in Jesus.*
- *The more we die and come to the end of ourselves in the pruning / chastening of the Lord, the more we depend and draw upon the life of the Vine.*

James 4:13-16 ESV

13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"--

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a

little time and then vanishes.

15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."

16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

Proverbs 3:5-7 ESV

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

7 Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

CONTINUAL ENABLING / EMPOWERING

- *The life and power of Jesus Christ living in us and living through us is literal and discernable. It is not theoretical nor subliminal.*

Romans 8:11 ESV

11 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.

Luke 8:43-46 ESV

43 And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her living on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone.

44 She came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, and immediately her discharge of blood ceased.

45 And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds surround you and are pressing in on you!"

46 But Jesus said, "Someone touched me, for I perceive that power has gone out from me."

Galatians 5:16-18 ESV

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

17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Ephesians 3:16-20 ESV

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,