

The Great Abide

1John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

The plan is for us to “abide in Him”. Many want to have Christ in their life just for salvation or trouble. They pray hit and miss, mostly miss. They want to leave Him at the church door or at the Hospital. They don’t want to take him home. They don’t want to take Him to the workplace or to the entertainment. They have a little closet in the house of their life and they want Him to stay there until they’ve tried everything else and they are on their last rope. Then they expect him to come out and help the situation then afterward to get back into the closet until needed again.

Is that any way to treat the King of glory? The one who loved us so much that He gave up His life on the cross so that we could get saved. Jesus wants much more of us than that. Why should we expect our Savior to only be in our life when bad things happen? He wants so much more than that.

The verse says “Abide in Him”. *The word abide means: to stay, tarry, continue in something. It can signify a constant residence or continually dwelling with someone.*

1. The Necessity of Abiding

- A. **John 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.**
- B. I love flashlights! Not the old ones of my childhood that ate batteries and gave little light in return. When I say light I mean one that will light up the whole side of a house. I do not like the dark or even a darkened room. I want to see where I am going!
- C. We need to have the same desire when it comes to spiritual things and the danger of evil things. The light should be so bright that there is no stumbling on our life’s path.
- D. Jesus is that light! He tells us that no one will abide in darkness where He is at. We will have both spiritual Knowledge and knowledge of His ways if we abide in Him. But we must allow Him to work in us.
- E. **Mat 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and the shadow of death, light is sprung up.** (quote Isa 9:1-2)
John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

2. The Fruit of Abiding

- A. **John 15:4-5 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**
- B. Abiding in Christ is necessary for doing good. One might say “I have done some good things in my life”, but abiding in Christ remember is “continually dwelling” with Him. We need to ask ourselves is Jesus Christ going to do something wrong. If we abide in Him we will have an easier time in doing the right thing. We want to bear good fruit and not rotten fruit. Not sour and disagreeable fruit but fruit that nourishes the soul.
- C. Notice verse 5 says “without me ye can do nothing”. We often times think we can do anything but Jesus corrects us and says not without me.

3. The Abiding Prayer

- A. **John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

- B. Here we see the necessity of abiding in Christ for the praying Christian. We are weak when it comes to prayer without Him.
- C. **Rom_8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**
- D. When we pray we are reaching out to the portals of Heaven itself. In the flesh we are not well equipped to do this task. Many times we do not know how to begin. This is where abiding in Christ really makes a difference. The spirit of Christ is our guide and our help.
- E. The times we are so distraught that we don't hardly know what to say in prayer, the spirit of Christ intervenes.

4. The Abiding Love

- A. **John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.**
- B. One of the questions to be answered in life is "where will we live" or where will we abide. Our physical home can be anywhere. One of the things we hope for in our home is love.
- C. One choice we can make is where we will abide spiritually, which also affects our physical life. Jesus mentioned the word love 53 times in the New Testament. Paul mentioned the word love 78 times in the New Testament. Love is the main theme in the New Testament. There we have verses like:
Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
Rom 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
- D. Christ loves us and He tells us to abide in His love. This is a deliberate choice on the part of an individual. It is not automatic, it is not forced but it is a choice. God delights to give it to us!
- E. What is abiding in Christ's love?
 The beginning is when we care what Jesus wants for us. Most live their life not caring.
 We must realize that it is God working in us that will make the difference.
 We must yield to His will. How can we walk the right path if we do not have a guide who cares.
 We must realize that sin and Satan are not our friends but Christ is.
- F. **John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.**
- G. Jesus is our friend! He proved that on that rugged cross. He proves that fact everyday He continues to love us and care for us.