



abide

John 15:1-11





welcome

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Greeting	9:15
Main Session One	9:30 - 10:30
Breakout Session One	10:45 - 11:25
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Lunch (sanctuary)	12:20 - 1:35
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# *Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery*

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King  
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity  
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come  
Look to Christ who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man  
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin  
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell bound man  
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree  
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory  
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold  
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life  
But no grave could ever restrain Him, praise the Lord He is alive  
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when He comes

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope  
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

## *Man of Sorrows*

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by His own betrayed  
The sin of man and wrath of God has been on Jesus laid  
Silent as He stood accused, beaten, mocked, and scorned  
Bowing to the Father's will, He took a crown of thorns

Chorus  
Oh the rugged cross, my salvation  
Where Your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out hallelujah  
Praise and honor unto Thee

Sent of heaven God's own Son, to purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones who nailed Him to that tree

Now my debt is paid, it is paid in full, by the precious blood that my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin has no hold on me, whom the Son sets free oh is free indeed

See the stone is rolled away, behold the empty tomb  
Hallelujah, God be praised, He's risen from the grave



# *Even Unto Death*

Jesus, the very thought of You, it fills my heart with love  
Jesus, You burn like wildfire and I am overcome

Chorus

Lover, of my soul, even unto death  
With my every breath, I will love You  
Lover of my soul, even unto death  
With my every breath, I will love You

Jesus, You are my only hope and You my prize shall be  
Jesus, You are my glory now and in eternity

In my darkest hour, in humiliation  
I will wait for You, I am not forsaken  
Though I lose my life, though my breath be taken  
I will wait for You, I am not forsaken  
One thing I desire, to see You in Your beauty  
You are my delight, You are my glory  
You my sacrifice, Your love is all consuming  
You are my delight, You are my glory  
Oh You are my glory, You are my glory

Jesus, the very thought of You  
Jesus, the very thought of You

# *It is Well With My Soul*

When peace like a river, attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Chorus

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the joy of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord oh my soul

And Lord haste the day when my faith shall be sight  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend  
Even so it is well with my soul

# John 15:1-11

## *Passage*

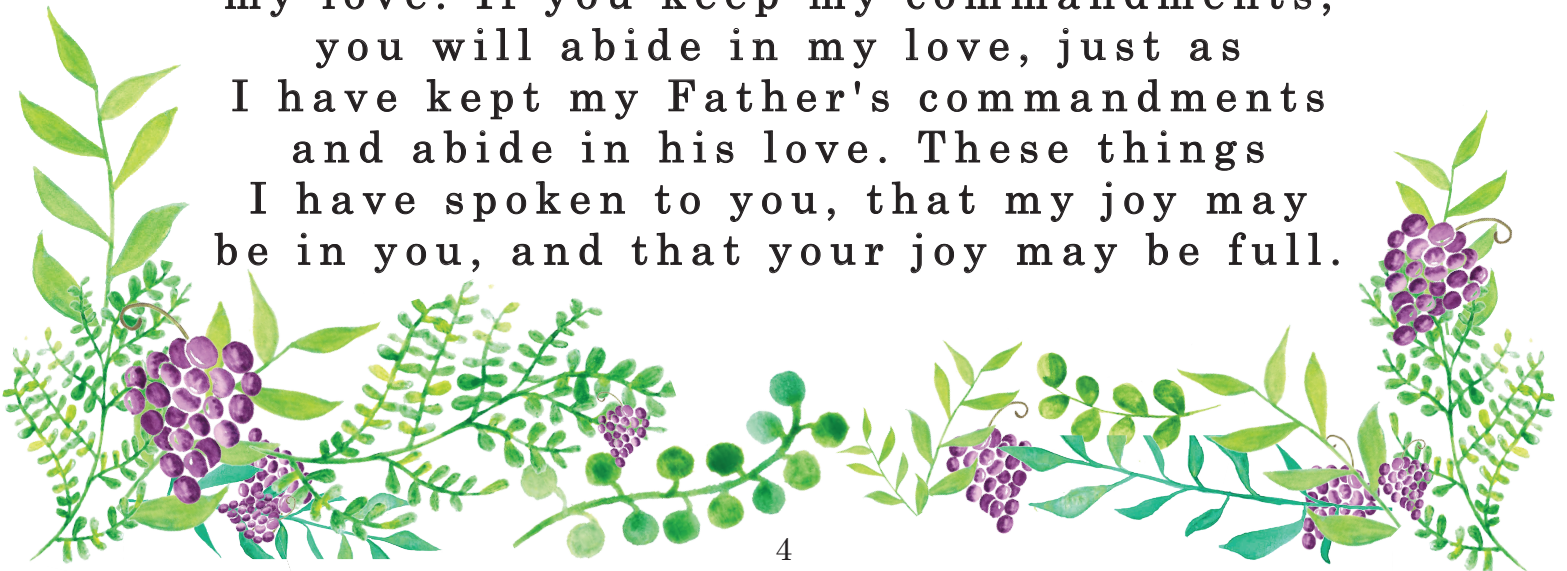
I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

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

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. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. These things

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



# John 15:1-17

*Understanding our Relationship with Christ - Abiding in Him*

## Review: God's Gracious Gift of Salvation

Romans 5:6-8 — "For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

2 Corinthians 5:21 — "For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."

Romans 6:1-2 — "Are we to remain in sin???... "By no means!"

We have been \_\_\_\_\_ from sin and for \_\_\_\_\_!

Romans 6:20-23—"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Q: Are we \_\_\_\_\_ as having been set free from sin?

Q: How do you qualify or quantify that?

Q: What is our role in the process of \_\_\_\_\_?



# John 15:1-17

## Overview

**Central Theme:** \_\_\_\_\_ in the True Vine (John 15:4)

Who's teaching? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:19)

What metaphor is He using? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:1-6)

Why is this analogy significant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 80:8-16, Isaiah 5:1-7; 27; Jer. 12:2)

All that the Lord was to Israel, He is prepared to be to us! (\_\_\_\_\_)

**Central Topic:** Why \_\_\_\_\_ must be attached & getting nourishment from the True Vine! (John 15:2-11)

Who is the True Vine? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:1,5)

Who is the Vinedresser or Gardener of this Vine? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:1-2)

Who are the branches? \_\_\_\_\_ (John 15:5)

**Central Truth:** Where there is life there is \_\_\_\_\_!

The Father expects much \_\_\_\_\_ from all who are united in His Son. (John 15:8; Mark 4:20; Romans 7:4; Colossians 1:10)

Like branches of a vine that draw their life from the vine, Christians united by the Holy Spirit, draw their life from their Savior. (Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19; John 14:20)

Just as Jesus desires to \_\_\_\_\_ His Father, so should we, proving to be His disciples. (John 15:8-9)

**Central Verses:** John 15:5, 8

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

**Central Questions:** Are you "abiding in the True Vine"? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you drawing your strength from \_\_\_\_\_ so that \_\_\_\_\_ is able to produce \_\_\_\_\_ fruit through your life?

Are you bearing \_\_\_\_\_ fruit today? \_\_\_\_\_





# John 15:1-17

*Jesus: The True Vine*

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the **TRUE VINE** (vs. 1-3)

The \_\_\_\_\_ of the True Vine

- i. Jesus and Jesus alone possesses \_\_\_\_\_ within Himself. (John 14:6)
- ii. All other vines are counterfeit. He alone is the true source of everlasting, \_\_\_\_\_ life. (Matthew 7:15)
- iii. Jesus reveals His \_\_\_\_\_ through yet another "I Am" statement (7th) as the True Vine, Jesus did what Israel had failed to do. (Isaiah 49:3,6)
- iv. The True Vine produces \_\_\_\_\_ fruit. (Matthew 7:16-20)
- v. Jesus is referring to those "in Me" (vs 2); this lets us know that we are dealing with genuine \_\_\_\_\_. (Matthew 13)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the True Vine (John 15:2)

- i. Jesus says that the \_\_\_\_\_ is the Gardener.
- ii. The Gardener, the one who has the \_\_\_\_\_ of caring for the vineyard.
- iii. The Gardener is involved in \_\_\_\_\_ that has to do with the Vine. This verse describes three specific duties:
  1. Protection - The Gardener provides tender watch, care and protection for the Vineyard. The Lord sees it all! (Prov. 15:3)
  2. Purification - The Gardener uses three primary methods of purifying His vineyard:
    - a. He \_\_\_\_\_ the Branch (vs.2) "Takes away" means to lift up or to raise higher. The Gardener will take the unfruitful branch and lift it from the dirt on which it has fallen giving it a better chance to be productive. His \_\_\_\_\_ is always a proof of His love. (Rev 3:19; Hebrews 12:6-8)
    - b. He \_\_\_\_\_ the Branch - The Gardener removes things from the branch that sap its vitality and strength. Anything that consumes life, but produces no fruit must go! (Hebrews 12:1-2)
    - c. How is this pruning accomplished? By the \_\_\_\_\_ of God! (vs 3)
      1. Like a \_\_\_\_\_; The Word of God reveals problems. (James 1:22-24)
      2. Like a \_\_\_\_\_; The Word of God cuts to the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

**Q: Has the Lord been speaking to you through His Word? If not, then I challenge you to allow the Lord to prune your life with His Word. If that is not accomplished, then He will accomplish His work with more drastic measures to cause growth.**

- d. The Father will prune or cleanse branches that are not producing much fruit. He does this also by allowing various trials or grief in our lives to strengthen us to bear more fruit to help us be spiritually healthy and productive.





II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the **TRUE VINE** (vs. 2-8)

A. There is a Distinct Purpose

- i. The True Vine is to produce \_\_\_\_\_. The Vine exists for that purpose alone. Without the fruit, the vine and all of its efforts are wasted.
- ii. The True Vine purposes to bear fruit to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord (vs. 8)

B. There is a Distinguished Purpose

- i. The reason the Vine desires to produce fruit is so that the Gardener might receive the \_\_\_\_\_. When fruit is yielded in a vineyard, the Vine, the branches, the soil, even the fruit does not get the credit. All the **glory** passes on to the Gardener. So it is with the Lord Jesus. Everything He did and does was and is to glorify His Father.

C. There is a Delegated Purpose

- i. The Vine itself does not bear fruit! Its fruit is on the branches. The branches have the obligation of bearing the fruit- every true believer bears fruit! The Vine supplies its **life** to the branches and they take that life and use it to \_\_\_\_\_. But, how?

1. The Qualifications for Bearing Fruit

- a. The Branch must be \_\_\_\_\_ to The Vine - If we are not in the Vine, then there is no way for us to share in the Vine's life. This is all about a vital union between the believer and the Lord Jesus Christ, the True Vine (vs. 2).
- b. The Branch must \_\_\_\_\_ in The Vine - That is, we must maintain a close fellowship with the Vine if He is to live through us and produce His fruit in our lives. This is only accomplished by "abiding" in Him! (vs. 4)
- c. The Branch must be \_\_\_\_\_ to The Vine - We must remember that fruit bearing is a passive activity on the part of the branch. If the branch will simply abide in the Vine, then the Vine will most certainly produce its fruit. (vs. 5)

**Q: In what areas of your life are you bearing fruit and where are you lacking?** (John 4:36; 12:24; 15:16, Matthew 7:16-20)

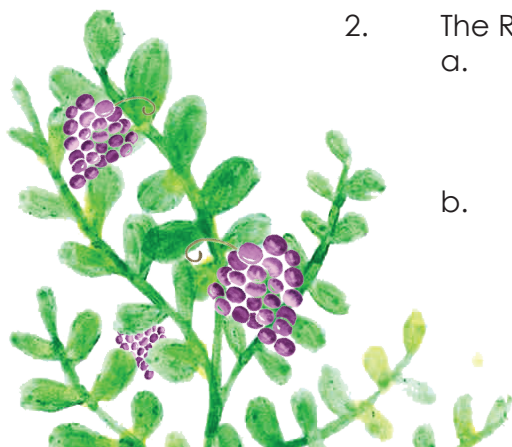
2. The Results of Bearing Fruit

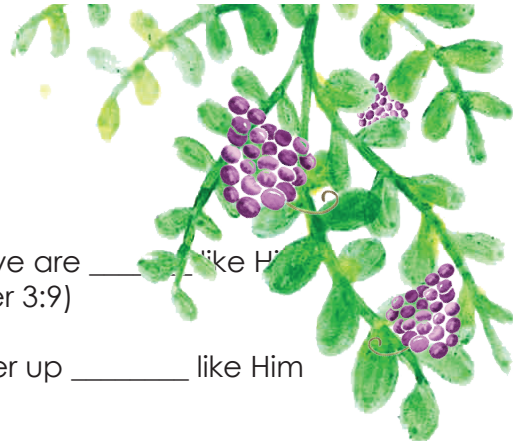
- a. Sanctification - That is, we \_\_\_\_\_ more like Him

(Romans 6:22; Philippians 1:11; Colossians 1:10)

- b. Spirituality - That is, we \_\_\_\_\_ more like Him

(Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)





- c. Sharing Faith to win souls -That is, we are \_\_\_\_\_ like Him (Romans 1:13; Philemon 1:6; 2 Peter 3:9)
  - d. Sacrificial Worship – That is, we offer up \_\_\_\_\_ like Him (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9)
3. The Quality of our Fruit

This is not the branches' responsibility! When we are \_\_\_\_\_ in the Vine and He is reproducing His \_\_\_\_\_ in us, we can rest assured that the fruit that is produced is honoring to the Lord. This is a liberating truth!

4. The Quantity of our Fruit  
This is not the responsibility of the branch. Our duty is to \_\_\_\_\_!  
God anticipates a steady progression in the level of our fruitfulness. Notice vs. 2, 5, 8 – 'no fruit', 'fruit', 'more fruit', 'much fruit'! The closer we abide in the Vine, the more \_\_\_\_\_ He will yield through our lives.
5. The Quagmire of Fruitlessness  
Not every branch abides in the Vine as it should. It is still attached, but it has ceased to draw \_\_\_\_\_ from the Vine's fullness (vs. 6). As a result, it is fruitless and withered. When this happens, there will be three certain results. (Matthew 7:19-20)
- a. Loss of Fellowship - Cast out - Not Abiding

NOTE: A true believer **cannot** lose their salvation -relationship with the Lord. (John 10:28) The withered branch still possesses the same nature as the Vine, but it is no longer attached in the sense of life-drawing fellowship.

- b. Loss of Vitality - Withered - Possessing no life! Dead and dried up - now there is deadness where there used to be life. There is weakness where there used to be power. There is emptiness where there used to be fullness. God counsels us to come back and \_\_\_\_\_ that long fellowship. Once again start to draw that life giving nutrients from the Vine and begin again to produce fruit for Him.
- c. Loss of Reward - When this life is over, there will be many who name the name of Jesus and were unfruitful. They will experience the loss of God's rewards (1 Cor. 3:13-15).

**Q: Will you hear, "Well done good and faithful servant?"**  
(Matthew 25:23)

You can if you are a **fruitful** branch, allowing Christ to move in and through you to produce good fruit!



# breakout sessions

## **Abide: In the Body (Sarah Jenison, South Upper Room)**

Waking up early Sunday morning and getting dressed in "church clothes" to go hang out with "church people" and then coming home to make a "church lunch" can feel daunting. Getting off the cozy couch on Tuesday evening when it is dark and cold outside to go to someone else's house for "Bible Study" can feel draining. Getting that text from someone who wants to "hang out" so they can ask you awkward, personal questions and "get to know you" can feel...disturbing. And one asks oneself "how in the world is God glorified by this?" We will be walking through Paul's letter to the Ephesians to understand what he meant when he said "to [God] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

## **Abide: Remaining Teachable (Paula Neal, Library)**

Do you regularly approach Scripture with an attitude of "What do you want to teach me today Lord"? Do you humbly welcome His teaching and the change it will bring into your life? We remain teachable when we heed the call to abide in our Savior and for His words to abide in us. We can succeed at being teachable by actively pursuing opportunities to be confronted by His word and responding to it with a tender heart. During this breakout session, we will discuss our need to be teachable and responsive toward God and His word, learning from biblical saints, such as King Josiah, whom God called "humble and tender hearted" (2 Chronicles 34:14-28).

## **Abide: Renewed Daily (Dina Hobart, Room 104)**

In Romans 12:1-2, Paul appeals to believers to "present your bodies as a living sacrifice...to God, which is your spiritual worship." Have you ever wondered what it means to truly live your life for God? Or how we can abide in Christ and daily give ourselves, all of ourselves, to God? In this breakout session, we will explore Romans 12:1-2 together and see the importance of being "transformed by the renewal of your mind." Come ready to learn practical ways to daily renew our minds and to be a living sacrifice!

## **Abide: Through Service (Debbie Kross, Room 101)**

When life is so demanding of our time, that we feel like we can't add another thing to our plate, someone calls to see if we can host Growth Group at our house. "Oh, and can you also provide snack?" Or we get a call on Saturday night to see if we can help in the nursery on Sunday morning, 1st service? How do we continue to live out 1 Peter 4:7-11 by "loving one another, being hospitable without complaining, and using our special gifts by serving one another?" God promises to supply the strength we need, so He may be glorified! In this breakout session, we will be talking about our gifts of service, with an emphasis on Hospitality. What exactly does it look like to be hospitable?

## **Abide: Without Worry (Courtney Jenison, North Upper Room)**

The world we live in is not without fearful situations. We live in a sinful fallen world and have continual reminders of this truth daily. For anxious people, the world around us can cause us great stress and turn us away from the Lord. Jesus knew that fear and worry were common temptations for men and women, so it's no surprise that the command to "not fear" is among the most common. In "Abide: Without Worry," we will be studying Jesus' words to not worry about our life but instead to "seek first the kingdom of God." We will have an opportunity to identify the sin of worry, how it keeps us from obeying Christ properly, and what it means to seek the kingdom of God.

# Abiding in the Body

“If you live alone, whose feet will you wash?”

## I. THE \_\_\_\_\_:

Eph. 2:21 - “...in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”

1. Jesus' Place in the Plan
  - a. Eph. 1:22-23
  - b. Eph. 2:20
2. Our Place in the Plan: In Christ
  - a. Eph. 2:17-22
  - b. Eph. 4:1-7, 11-16

## II. THE \_\_\_\_\_:

Ephesians 5:23, 25-27, 29-30 - ...Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior... Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish...For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

The Church:

1. Is the Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)
2. Is Saved by Christ (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:10; Titus 2:13-14; Titus 3:3-7)
3. Is Loved by Christ (Romans 8:37-39; Ephesians 2:4-7; 1 John 4:9-10)
4. Is Purchased/Redeemed by Christ (Ephesians 5:2b; Matthew 20:18-19; Romans 5: 25; Romans 8:31-32; Acts 20:28)
5. Is Sanctified by Christ (John 17:17-19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Hebrews 10:10)
6. Is Cleansed by Christ (Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:13-14; 1 John 1:7, 9)
7. Will be Presented to Christ in perfection (Colossians 1:21-22; 1 Corinthians 16-17; Ephesians 1:4; Jude 1:24-25)
8. Is nourished and cherished by Christ (John 17:20-24; Matthew 9:36; Luke 15:3-6; John 10:11-16)

### III. THE \_\_\_\_\_:

Ephesians 3:8-12 - "8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him."

Ephesians 3:20-21 - "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, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

### CONCLUSION

1 Corinthians 14:12 "...strive to excel in building up the church."



# Abide: Remaining Teachable

2 Chronicles 34:14-28

## Background of 2 Chronicles 34:

The Holy Scriptures had been lost/hidden for many generations, consequently the Israelites were living in grave sin. God stirred young King Josiah's heart to rebuild the temple of the Lord. During the temple refurbishing the scriptures were found in a hidden place. When King Josiah heard the words of God, he immediately responded with broken heartedness and grief over the sin of his forefathers and contemplated his reverent fear of God's impending wrath. vv14-19

King Josiah sent servants to confirm that what he heard from God's Word was correct. The God of Israel replied through the prophetess Huldah by saying to young Josiah:

*"because your heart was tender and you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and against its inhabitants, and because you humbled yourself before Me, tore your clothes and wept before me, I truly have heard you," declares the LORD." (v27)*

The Lord tells Josiah that he will be spared the wrath coming on his people. Josiah goes on to share God's Word with the people and makes a covenant before the Lord to keep His commands with all his heart and soul. As their king, Josiah had the people join him in this covenant. vv28-33

Remaining teachable requires becoming tender hearted and humble.

## In this passage God commends Josiah for being:

*Tender hearted* - soft, easily bent, kind, contrite, delicate, easily moved to compassion

Being tender-hearted is not - being gullible, taken advantage of, being stepped all over. It is also not being hard, tough, or stubborn. The word tender is often used in scripture to describe young plants, branches, sprouts, or shoots that are soft and easily trained to go in a particular direction.

We can work at being tender-hearted as God commends by being:

### Tender before God

*"But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my **weaknesses**, so that the power of Christ may **dwell in** me. Therefore I am well **content** with weaknesses, with insults, with difficulties,... for Christ's sake; for when I am **weak**, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

- Weaknesses: want of strength, want to understand (see the need)
- Dwell in: take possession of, live in, Christ working within and giving help
- Content: pleased with, take pleasure in, to think it good, be willing, to choose
- Weak: to purposefully abstain from use of strength, not hold sway over others

Tenderness before God is not weakness as we may think of it, instead it results in strength. When we empty ourselves so His power can work through us, then we have strength in Christ, allowing us to serve Him and His creation well.

### Tender toward the Word

*"...we also constantly thank God that when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the Word of God." 1 Thessalonians 2:13*

We first need to recognize the Word for what it is—words from our heavenly Father directly to us as a believer, no matter who we are, how or where we live, or what era we live in. It is timeless.

**“Let the word of Christ *richly dwell* within you.”** Colossians 3:16

- Let: to dwell in one and influence one for good
- Richly: abundantly (large quantities, expansive)
- Dwell: to live in, to be at home (be comfortable)

Being tender toward the Word is allowing it to work in us, allowing it to change us, to bend us as a new sprout of a plant

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and **bring** to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26

- Bring: recall to mind, cause one to remember

God the Holy Spirit will bring to our mind those things He wants us to focus on in order to grow. Our part is to listen and act or obey. Being tender toward the Word is allowing the Holy Spirit to use His Word to control our hearts, minds, and lives. “God’s Word is the handle by which the Holy Spirit uses to steer our lives”. David Jeremiah

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,...But his **delight** is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he **meditates** day and night.” Psalm 1:1-2

- Delight: pleasure, desire, longing, a valuable thing.
- Meditates: ponder, (growl or moan like a lion contemplating his caught prey)

Think about what you are going to do with what you just read. How will you apply it to your life? Do we delight in His Word? Do we delight in obeying Him? Do we see His word and obeying it as a valuable thing? If we are delighting in and meditating on His Word then we should be excited about its affect on us, and excited to see change.

### Tender toward others

“Be **kind** to one another, **tender-hearted**, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:32

- Kind: virtuous, good, pleasant, not harsh or bitter
- Tender-hearted: compassionate, sympathetic, tender affection

“...**put on a heart of compassion, kindness**, humility, gentleness, and **patience**, bearing with one another.” Colossians 3:12-13

- Put on: clothe yourself with, sink into, put yourself into – active, requires action
- Heart of compassion: mercy, pity, longing for another's well being
- Kindness: gentleness, goodness, usefulness (what is helpful to them)
- Patience: endurance, perseverance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

Consider others and how you would feel, putting yourself in their place, even if they annoy or irritate you.

*Humble* - put into subjection, be put under, to bend the knee  
We can work at being humble as God commends by being:

#### Humble before God

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God." 1 Peter 5:6

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but **emptied** Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." Philippians 2:5-7

- Emptied: lay aside equality, make void, lay aside force

Recognize my place in God's plan. I am to humbly put myself under His direction and acknowledge the truth of His position. He is the one to cast out my pride and replace it with Christ-like humility.

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" 1 Corinthians 6:19

#### Humble toward the Word

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for **training in righteousness**." 2 Timothy 3:16

- Training: cultivation of mind and morals by correcting mistakes/curbing passions
- Righteousness: condition acceptable to God, integrity, virtue, correctness of thinking

All of God's words are profitable for us, and are for our sanctification.

"For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12

Respect the Word. Let it do its work in your heart.

#### Humble toward others

"...learn from me, for I am **gentle** and **lowly in heart**." Matthew 11:29

- Gentle: meek, mild, humble
- Lowly: low in spirit, deferring servilely to others (excessive willingness to serve)
- In heart: center of the physical and spiritual, seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, intelligence, will, character

Learn from Christ's example-He is just as humble toward God (emptying himself for God's use) as He is toward man.

"Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:3-4

"...and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of man came not to be ministered to, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:27-28

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, **meekness**, and patience, bearing with one another." Colossians 3:12-13

"A closer look at the word meek: The Greeks called their horses praus, or meek. When the horse got to the level of training where it would obey the master (the rider) no matter what was going on, it could be trusted in the heat of battle not to do something foolish. Once the rider knew that he could trust the animal, and it would obey him no matter what, he called it a meek horse even though it might be a powerful, thoroughbred stallion, capable of killing enemies in the battle."

Humility - The Beauty of Holiness, Andrew Murray

*Teachable* -able to be taught, capable of being instructed, Webster's Dictionary

We have the best opportunity to be teachable by remaining tender and humble toward God, His Word, and others. It would be of great value for us to put ourselves in places of opportunity to hear the Word, to allow for right focus and growth in Christ.

"...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..." Hebrews 10:25

Teachability includes the willingness to seek, hear, and consider or act upon the godly counsel of others. We can seek opportunities to encourage others and be encouraged ourselves, valuing the godly guidance of others. God works through people and events He puts in our lives, wanting us to live fruitful, joyous lives.

Let us examine ourselves and look for where we can be teachable in our lives.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart...see if there be any hurtful way in me and lead me in the everlasting way." Psalm 139:23

# Abide: Renewed Daily

Romans 12:1-2

I. PRESENT \_\_\_\_\_

- A. What verb does Paul use in the first part of this verse?
- B. What reason or motivation does Paul give when he urges us?

God's \_\_\_\_\_

C. How can you "offer your body as a living sacrifice"?

- 1. Present your bodies
- 2. Sacrifice (Ps. 51:16-17)
- 3. Spiritual Service (Eph. 2:10)

II. PURPOSE NOT TO \_\_\_\_\_

How might we be conformed to the world?

- A. Be obedient children (I Pet. 1:14-15)
- B. Deny ungodliness (Titus 2:12)

III. PURPOSE TO BE \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_ OUR \_\_\_\_\_

How can we do this?

A. BE \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. Christ makes us new (I Cor. 5:17)
- 2. We are to apply diligence to grow in our faith (II Pet. 1:5-7)

B. BY \_\_\_\_\_





C. OUR \_\_\_\_\_

How can we renew our minds?  
With what do we fill our minds?

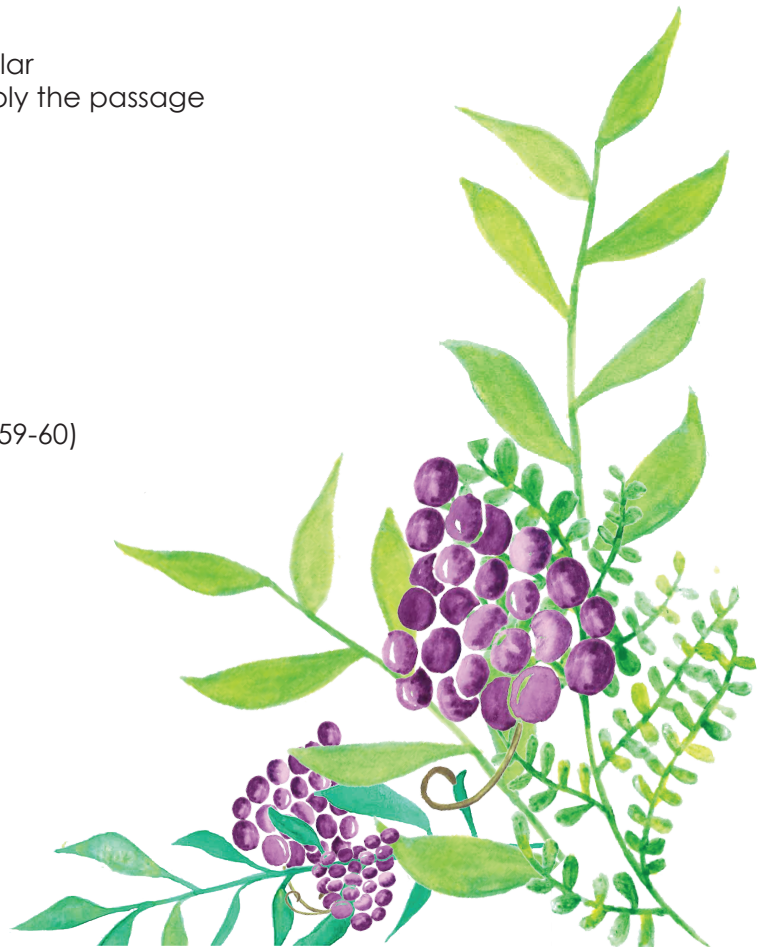
1. The knowledge of His will (Col 1:9)
2. The word of Christ (Col 3:16)

IV. PROVES (DEMONSTRATES) \_\_\_\_\_

- A. We bear fruit (Col. 1:10)
- B. We keep our way pure (Ps. 119:11)

V. PRACTICAL WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH GOD'S WORD  
(from 12 Dynamic Bible Study Methods by Richard Warren)

- A. Pray
- B. Ponder God's Word
  1. Personalize the passage
  2. Punctuate (emphasize) particular
  3. Pose practical questions to apply the passage
    - a. Sin to confess?
    - b. Promise to claim?
    - c. Attitude to change?
    - d. Command to obey?
    - e. Example to follow?
    - f. Prayer to repeat?
    - g. Error to avoid?
    - h. Truth to believe?
    - i. Praise to give to God?
- C. Put it in your life – application (Ps. 119:59-60)
  1. Make it personal
  2. Make it practical



# Abide: Through Service

Serving For God's Glory

1 Peter 4:7-11

"7 The end of all things is near, therefore, be of sound judgment and sober spirit for the purpose of prayer. 8 Above all keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. 9 Be hospitable to one another without complaint. 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things, God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

When you think about "Abiding in Christ through serving," what comes to your mind?

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When I was approached to lead a breakout session for this conference, I was asked to think about how we can abide in service in a practical way.

So, looking at the definition of "practical," it says: "Relating to, or manifested in practice or action"

**So how do we practice Abiding?**

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The word "Abide" means "to remain" or "stay around." The "remaining" is evidence that salvation has already taken place. So the fruit or evidence of salvation is shown through our service to Him.

We as believers are called to serve others, not because of them, but because of Him!

**What are some areas we can serve Him?**

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As I'm thinking about service, I go back to the definition of practical: **practice or action**

There are many ways to serve, but today I would like to take a look at **Hospitality**.

## **What do the Scriptures say specifically about Hospitality?**

*Romans 12:9-13* gives us instructions on how a Christian should live:

"9 Love without hypocrisy, hate evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to each other, put others above yourself, 11 be diligent in serving the Lord, 12 rejoice in hope, persevere in trials, be devoted in prayer. 13 contribute to the needs of others, practice hospitality."

There are other verses that speak about being hospitable:

*1 Timothy 3:2* – qualification of an Elder is to be hospitable.

*Hebrews 13:2* – the moral direction of the believer: the extension of love to those who were strangers.

*1 Peter 4:9* – Serving for God's glory

– opening up our homes to serve God, and to show love to others.

## **So, what exactly is Hospitality, and what does it look like?**

### **Hospitality:**

- The friendly reception and treatment of guest, visitors, or strangers.
- The quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.
- Vines says: Love of strangers, the act of loving strangers.

I know not many of us entertain strangers, but *Hebrews 13:2* tells us by showing hospitality to strangers, some have entertained angels, without knowing it.

We aren't quick to open up our homes to strangers off the street, like they did in ancient times, but, even then, during persecution, they didn't always know if their guests were spies or fellow believers being pursued.

There are many examples in scripture of people opening up their homes to strangers:

*Luke 10:38*

Martha invited Jesus into her home

*Luke 11:37-38*

Pharisees invite Jesus in to have lunch.

*Acts 16:15*

After Lydia was baptized, she invited everyone to her house.

*Acts 16:31-34*

The Philippian jailer was saved, and took Paul and Silas to his house.

*Acts 18: 1-3*

Paul stayed with Aquila and Priscilla

*Acts 21:8*

Paul stayed with Philip in Caesarea

*Acts 28:1-2,7,10,14*

Natives of Malta showed kindness to Paul when he was shipwrecked, by taking them in, and when they set sail to leave for Rome, they supplied him with all his needs.

*2 Timothy 1:16*

Onesiphorus cared for Paul in prison.

**Let's talk about ways we can show hospitality in the church.**

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**How about outside the church?**

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I love opening up our home to others. I believe our home is God's home, and everything in it. He is the one that has blessed us with all that we have, and He wants us to share it with others.

Now I'm not saying there aren't times I just don't feel like having people over. We have hosted a Growth Group in our home for over 35 yrs, and when it has been a busy week, or we're just tired, I sometimes want to put a sign on the door that says, "Growth Group has been cancelled, go away, I'm in my pajamas!"

But instead, we hustle around, and get things ready, and as people start coming in, and we become engaged in conversation, I feel so blessed, and glad that we were able to serve in this way.

I know we all have our gifts in serving, and you may be thinking, hospitality? "I'm just not good at this, or I don't really like having others over, or my house is too small (Never! When we first started hosting a Growth Group, we lived in an 1500sq. ft. house, and we had about 20 people who attended) I don't have time to clean and prepare. Whatever the excuse, remember why you serve. We are all called to serve, and be hospitable.

You may find out you're really good at it, and enjoy it, and that it is a gift that God gave you, that you didn't even know you had.

Either way, whether it's hospitality, or some other way to serve, find out where your gift of service is, and do it.

There are so many areas to serve, whether it is teaching, helping in children's ministry, handing out bulletins, selling coffee, mowing lawns, pulling weeds, or rocking babies. (I was nursery coordinator for almost 25 yrs, and rocked a lot of babies, and changed a lot of diapers, and some even grew up to be preachers!)

Our obedience to God's word brings Glory to Him, and blesses us as we Abide In Him.

# Abiding Without Worry

Matthew 6: 25-34 (ESV)

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?  
26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

- 1. Don't Worry vs. 25-32
- a. The Commandment vs. 25

- b. The Encouragement vs. 26-30

- c. Unbelief vs. 31-32

\*Example of unbelief  
Exodus 16: 11-21 (ESV)



## 2. Do Seek the Kingdom of God Vs. 33-34

- a. Seek the Kingdom- vs 33a
- b. All these things added to you- vs 33b
- c. Don't be anxious for tomorrow -vs. 34

## *Verses to Memorize*

### **When I'm afraid God won't provide**

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.  
- Philippians 4:19

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

### **When I'm afraid I'm not saved**

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."  
- Acts 16:31

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. - Romans 10:9

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.  
- John 10:28

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. - Ephesians 1:13-14

### **When I'm afraid disaster and trials will come**

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.  
- Romans 8:28-29

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. - James 1:2-4

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. - Isaiah 26:3

For the righteous will never be moved; he will be remembered forever. He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. - Psalm 112:6-7

### **When I'm afraid of other people**

Stop regarding man in whose nostrils is breath, for of what account is he? - Isaiah 2:22

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. - Proverbs 29:25

When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? - Psalm 56:3-4

So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.  
- Matthew 10:32-33

### **When I'm afraid of losing a loved one**

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah  
- Psalm 62:8

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. - Psalm 73:25-26

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. - Psalm 116:15

## **When I'm afraid of losing control**

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. - Psalm 115:3

Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' - Isaiah 46:9-10

The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.  
- Proverbs 16:4

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD. - Proverbs 16:33

In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, - Ephesians 1:11

## *Resources to Assist*

Commentary - The Gospel of Matthew Volume 1: James Montgomery Boice

Commentary - Matthew 1-7: John MacArthur

Running Scared: fear, worry and the God of rest By Edward T. Welch

When I am Afraid: A step by step guide away from fear and Anxiety By Edward T. Welch

Found: God's Peace: Experience true freedom from anxiety in every circumstance  
By John Macarthur

Trusting God: Jerry Bridges

Verses - bible memory app for smartphone



# Let Your Kingdom Come

Your glorious cause oh God engages our hearts  
May Jesus Christ be known wherever we are  
We ask not for ourselves but for Your renown  
The cross has saved us so we pray Your kingdom come

## Chorus

Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done  
So that everyone might know Your name  
Let Your song be heard everywhere on earth  
Till Your sovereign work on earth is done  
Let Your kingdom come

Give us Your strength oh God, and courage to speak  
Perform Your wondrous deeds through those who are weak  
Lord use us as You want, whatever the test  
By grace we'll preach Your gospel till our dying breath

# Holy Holy Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee  
Holy, holy, holy merciful and mighty  
God in three persons blessed trinity

Holy, holy, holy all the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee  
Who wert and art and evermore shall be

Holy, holy, holy though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see  
Only thou art holy, there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea  
Holy, holy, holy merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed trinity



# Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer

Jesus draw me ever nearer  
As I labor through the storm  
You have called me to this passage  
And I'll follow though I'm worn

## Chorus

May this journey bring a blessing  
May I rise on wings of faith  
And at the end of my heart's testing  
With Your likeness let me wake

Jesus guide me through the tempest  
Keep my spirit staid and sure  
When the midnight meets the morning  
Let me love You even more

May the treasures of the trial  
Form within me as I go  
And at the end of this long passage  
Let me leave them at Your throne

# Even Unto Death

Jesus, the very thought of You, it fills my heart with love  
Jesus, You burn like wildfire and I am overcome

## Chorus

Lover, of my soul, even unto death  
With my every breath, I will love You  
Lover of my soul, even unto death  
With my every breath, I will love You

Jesus, You are my only hope and You my prize shall be  
Jesus, You are my glory now and in eternity

In my darkest hour, in humiliation  
I will wait for You, I am not forsaken  
Though I lose my life, though my breath be taken  
I will wait for You, I am not forsaken  
One thing I desire, to see You in Your beauty  
You are my delight, You are my glory  
You are my sacrifice, Your love is all consuming  
You are my delight, You are my glory  
Oh You are my glory, You are my glory

Jesus, the very thought of You  
Jesus, the very thought of You

# John 15:1-17

*Jesus: The True Vine*

III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the **TRUE VINE** (vs 7-11)

Those who abide in the True Vine can rest assured of certain precious and sure promises!

- A. An \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Life  
When we are abiding and drawing life from Him, then His will becomes our own (John 14:13-14.) That is, every time we pray and everything we pray for will fit perfectly with His will and He will grant our requests. (vs. 7)
- B. An \_\_\_\_\_ Love  
Jesus loves everyone always, but those who are abiding in Him have entered into a special, ever-deepening relationship with Him. This is the promise of the Vine to the branches! (vs. 9, 13, 15) This love overflows to others as well (vs. 12, 17).
- C. An \_\_\_\_\_ Joy  
Jesus describes His joy and the desire for us to have this joy to the fullest. (Psalm 1611; John 17:13; Romans 15:13; 1 Peter 1:8; 1 John 1:4) It is the deep settled assurance and confidence in our relationship with the Father and with Christ that fills the heart with "joy unspeakable and full of glory", and that ignites the heart to serve God. (vs. 11)

## Conclusion:

Consider "The prayer of Moses, the man of God":

"LORD, You have been our dwelling place in all generations" (Psalm 90:1)

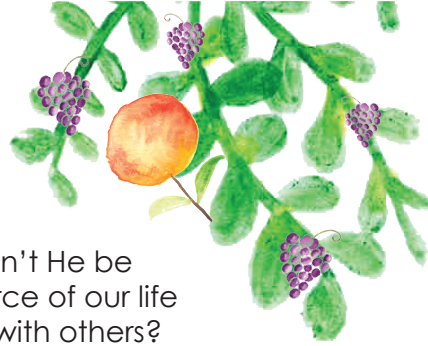
He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ... Because you have made the LORD, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling (Psalm 91:1, 9-10)

Consequently, it would seem that "making your permanent dwelling place" is not far from the meaning of 'abide' in our text. This helps us discern the message that our Lord is seeking to convey to His disciples, and ultimately to us. What, then, does it mean to "make the Lord Jesus our permanent dwelling place" or "our home"?

Think about what "**home**" means to us:

- o Home is where your heart is; it is where you want to be.
- o Home is the place to which you return, the place to which you are eager to get back to.
- o Home is where you feel most comfortable, and can really be yourself.
- o Home is a place of safety and security.
- o Home is where you bring your friends when you wish to have fellowship with them.
- o Home is our base of operations; it is at the center of what we do.
- o Home is where you find your strength for life; it is where you eat and sleep.
- o Home is where the people and the things we love the most are found.





Isn't this what Jesus Christ should be for the Christian? Shouldn't He be our place of refuge and security? Should He not be the source of our life and strength? Shouldn't He be the reason for our fellowship with others? Shouldn't He be where our heart is?

Jesus is the True Vine. His desire is to live through our lives so that we might bear fruit to glorify our Heavenly Father.

## Questions to consider:

1. Are you "in the Vine"? Have you ever been saved and grafted into Jesus?
2. Are you truly "abiding in the Vine"? Are you drawing your life nutrients and strength from Him daily so that He is able to produce His fruit through your life?"
3. Have you experienced God's pruning? How? Was it comfortable? Was it profitable?
4. Can you see Him bearing fruit in you today? As branches, should we be satisfied with a little bit of fruit here and there?
5. If we do bear fruit, we should not take the credit or glory for ourselves, but give it to the Gardener to whom it rightly belongs. How can we ensure that God gets the glory for any of our fruit?



# Cross references:

**Hebrews 12:7-11** – Discusses God disciplining us.

**Matthew 25:31-33** – Jesus will separate the sheep from the goats.

**Isaiah 5:1-7** – God made a great vineyard, but it didn't bear fruit and so He neglected it.

**Luke 13:6-9** – The owner of the fig tree is patient to let it bear fruit and fertilizes it, but destroys it in the end if it doesn't bear fruit.

**Matthew 3:10** – Every tree that does not bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

**Matthew 7:16-20** – A tree and it's fruit

**Matthew 15:13** – Every plant that God didn't plant will be uprooted.

**Matthew 3:12** – The winnowing fork is in His hand. He will burn up the chaff.

**Revelation 3:19** – Those whom He loves, He disciplines.

**John 17:17** – His Word is truth and sanctifies us.

**John 14:15, 21** – True believers obey the Lord's commands, submitting to His Word.

**Romans 5:3-5** – Tribulations bring more perseverance and character.

**Colossians 1:23** – As believers indeed we must continue in the faith

**1 John 2:6** – Those who say they abide in Christ should do what He says.

**1 John 2:24; John 5:56; 2 John 9;**

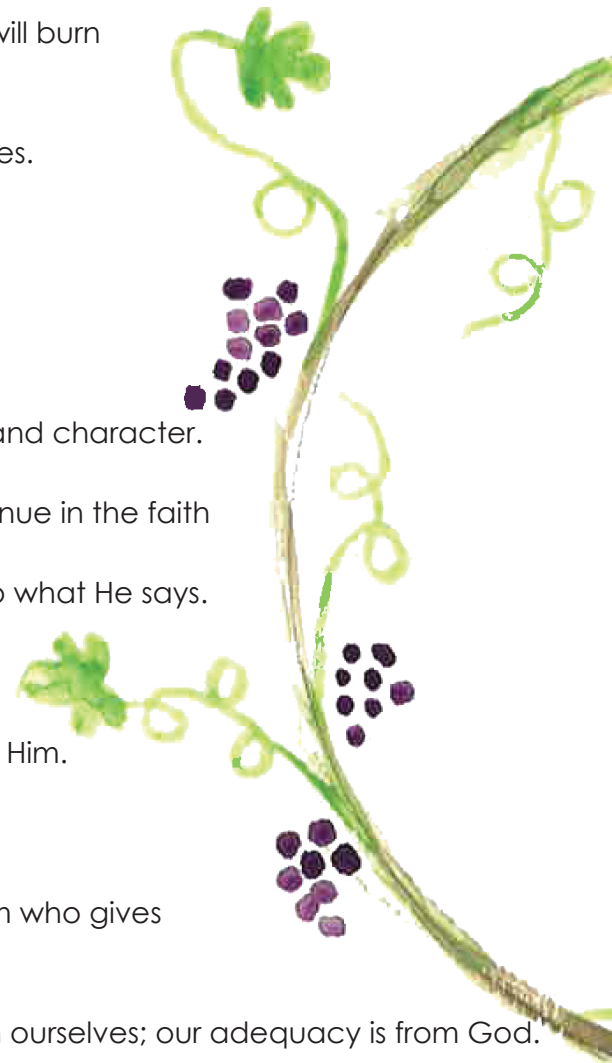
**James 1:25** – If what He said abides in us we will abide in Him.

**Acts 4:13** – Being recognized as a disciple of Jesus

**Philippians 4:13** – We can do all things through Him who gives us strength.

**2 Corinthians 3:5** – We are not adequate through ourselves; our adequacy is from God.

**Gal 5:22-23; Eph. 5:8-13; James 3:17-18;**  
**2 Peter 1:3-11** – Evidence of fruit that lasts.







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