



Abide in Me

John 15:1-17

¹"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴**Abide in me as I abide in you.** Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it **abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.** ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches.

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever **does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers**; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷**If you abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, **you will abide in my love**, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and **abide in his love.** ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Context

In the gospel Jesus makes 7 “I am” statements.

The Background

- An expanded metaphor
- The True Vine – Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15

Radical Theology

- Fundamental based on a relationship – with Jesus
- Relationship between Jesus and His father – I am the vine/He is the vinekeeper/who takes care of the vine

A Definition/What Does It Mean?

- This passage mentions abiding 8 times
- The word abide is meno and means to stay connected to, immerse yourself in, draw upon, rely upon, depend upon

- To remain-abiding in Him means to remain or to continue in him
- To stay- which mean the same as remain, and continue
- To wait- abiding is a patient expectancy – “My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him” Psalms 62:5
- To remain connected – just like the branch is connected to the trunk of a tree.

Why / The Result

1. Apart From Christ We Can Do Nothing
“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.” (v5)

- Abiding in Christ must mean that we understand that Jesus is the only source from which we receive life, that without Him we become spiritually withered and dead, and that He is the only way in which we can bear meaningful fruit that counts for eternity.
- Paul Washer - This understanding then brings us to desperately cling onto Him by seeking Him through prayer and hungering for His Word.

Promise: Abiding Leads to Full Joy

- When we don't abide in Christ, we are "thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned" (John 15:6).

Promise : Abiding leads to Fruitful Living

- "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Jesus is committed to producing His fruit in our lives - Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:2)

Promise Of Answered Prayer

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

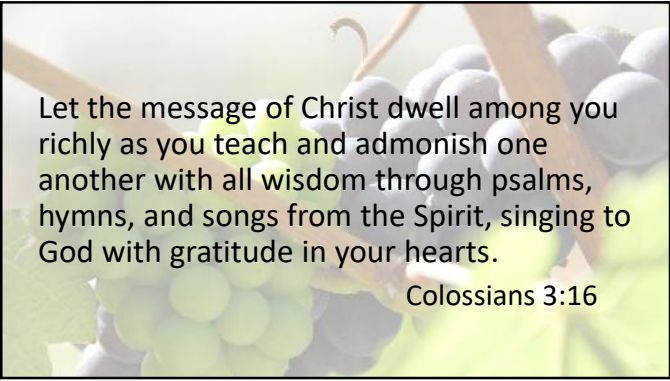
(John 15:7-8)

How Do We Abide?

- Abide is not about doing anything it is about being - it does not say abided, or is going to abide it says "Abide"
- You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit. (v16)

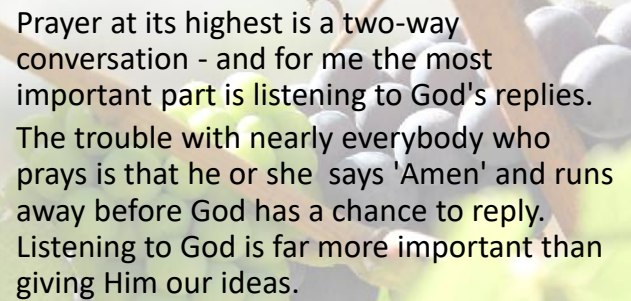
Requirements for Growing God's Fruit

- Time. Like the fruit on the tree, growing God's character in your life takes time.
- Day by day, you can watch Him grow His character in you as you make your heart at home in Him.



Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Colossians 3:16



Prayer at its highest is a two-way conversation - and for me the most important part is listening to God's replies. The trouble with nearly everybody who prays is that he or she says 'Amen' and runs away before God has a chance to reply. Listening to God is far more important than giving Him our ideas.

Frank Laubach