

# ABIDE IN ME. . .

PASTOR STEVE'S Wednesday Devotional 7-17-19

50 years ago, Apollo 11 landed on the surface of the moon on Sunday, July 20, 1969. Most of us are familiar with astronaut Neil Armstrong's historic statement as he stepped onto the moon's surface: "That's one small step for man; one giant leap for mankind." But few know about the first meal eaten there. Buzz Aldrin had brought aboard the spacecraft a tiny Communion kit provided by his church. Aldrin sent a radio broadcast to Earth asking listeners to contemplate the events of that day and give thanks. Then, in radio blackout for privacy ... [Aldrin] read John 15:5 *I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing* (NKJV). Silently, he gave thanks and partook.

What a powerful choice to read this passage on the Moon. These verses point to the importance of our relationship with Jesus. Believers are to abide or remain in Jesus, the Vine. The Greek word for "abide" is spoken as a command. It also has an ongoing emphasis; that is, the command to "abide" is not fulfilled in a single act. Abiding means to make a constant, moment-by-moment decision to follow Christ. And we must not be passive -- believers don't just sit and "abide" otherwise they dry up.

## **Abiding in Christ means:**

- believing that he is God's Son (1 John 4:15)
- receiving him as Savior and Lord (John 1:12)
- doing what God says (1 John 3:24)
- continuing to live the gospel (1 John 2:24)
- connecting to the community of believers (Christ's body – John 15:12)

A grapevine branch can survive and produce foliage for a while after it has been severed, but it cannot produce fruit unless it is connected to a root stock. As Jesus had a living dependence on the Father (6:57), so believers in Jesus need to have a living dependence on him.

These verses point to our responsibility is to exercise prayer and accept the responsibility of the disciplines of a believer's life such as fasting. These verses speak of the intimacy we are to have with Jesus as Lord. The intimacy of our relationship with our lord has everything to do about everything we are.

*...for without Me you can do nothing.* Ours is a world that is technical, mechanical, high strung, stressful, a world-wind of activities, and media communications. We move at a break neck speed, trying to get twelve things done at once, we can become unproductive, worried, stressed. God has given us patterns, boundaries and systems to live by in order to stay healthy. We easily take out the joy and sweetness of what God is doing by not living, abiding in the Lord.

*He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit;* The Word of God is showing us that if we have a close relationship with the Lord then our lives will bear fruit. If we do not have this close communion with God then our lives cannot bear fruit. Our increase will come as the direct result of abiding in Him...*bear fruit ...bear more fruitful ...bear much fruit.*

Blessing!  
Pastor Steve

