

I don't know of a committed Christian
who does **NOT want** to Abide in Christ

I don't know of a committed Christian – who does NOT want;
to Experience that **ABIDING COMMUNION** with Christ
to Truly **REST** in Him,
to Truly allow Jesus to **WORK** in their lives

But **so often** - we feel like that **Abiding** (resting) **in Christ**
is just **too difficult** – as if it's somehow far **beyond** us

& so - **to the Christian** – who **desires** to Truly **ABIDE** in Christ
but **thinks** it's **too far** beyond them . . .

let me say very clearly - - & please listen very clearly

It is **IMPOSSIBLE** to **Abide in Christ**
without the power of the **Holy Spirit**

The **ONLY** way to **experience**
the **REST** that comes from **Abiding in Christ** . . .

is by **letting** the **Holy Spirit** do His **full work IN** us, & **THRU** us

In order for us to Abide in Christ - we must learn;

- 1) **HOW** to allow the Holy Spirit to Work in us
- 2) **HOW** to Live in His Divine Power

& **THAT** – is what we're going to try to **unfold** today

Let's Pray

We've done a lot of teaching on the Holy Spirit around here

I counted 24 msg's we have on CD - specifically regarding;

- 1) **WHO** the Holy Spirit **IS**
- 2) **WHAT** His **ROLE** is - &
- 3) **WHY** we **NEED** to be continually FILLED with His POWER

& So - if you really want to understand

WHO the Holy Spirit **IS** & what His **ROLE** is - in your Christian Life

Ask Word-By-Mail

for the *Complete Holy Spirit collection* - **24 MSG's**

Alright - **Let's start** today - by **looking** at just a "**portion**"
of the **ROLE** of the Holy Spirit - - - ***turn over to JOHN***

& again - I have to **apologize** to the **WED** Night group

This past Wed we looked at a Msg called "**God Speaks**"
from the **Experiencing God** Study

& the **process** of learning how to **HEAR GOD SPEAK** –
& the **process** of learning how to **ABIDE in Christ** – are **THE SAME**

& so we **DEALT** with these **SAME scrips** last **Wed night**

AND – for the guys at the **Men's Breakfast** yesterday – you'll notice,
this is the **SAME subject** - that was on **Pastor John's** heart

To start – Just write down **Jn 14:15-31**

I wish I could teach this **entire passage** (*so, dig in later*)

In the Vs's **JUST BEFORE**
our **central "ABIDING in Christ"** text in **Jn Ch 15**

Jesus FIRST begins **teaching His disciples**
about their critical **NEED**, for **The Holy Spirit (Jn 14)**

IN FACT – Jesus teaches about **The Holy Spirit** – **Jn 14**
Then about our need to **ABIDE in Him** – **Jn 15**
Then **BACK** to **The Holy Spirit** – **Jn 16**

We can only **survey** it today (*so I hope you'll dig in later*)

Jn 14:15-17 – ESV

15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

***16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,
to be with you forever,***

***17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he
dwells with you and will be in you.***

the words "**Another Helper**" introduce us – to **The Holy Spirit** here

DEF of GREEK for "**Another Helper**" - ***One of the same kind &
quality*** (as Christ), ***called alongside to HELP***

Which **EXACTLY** what we need - in order to **ABIDE**

& Jesus makes it clear in **V.17**

Unbelievers (The World) **CANNOT** receive Him,
Because He is **GOD**

But – Jesus says: **You** (Disciples),

You **KNOW** Him – He dwells **WITH** you - & will be **IN** you

Now - skip down to **V.20** -

& **LOOK** at the **ROLE** of the Holy Spirit **in our ABIDING in Christ**

Jn 14:20 - ESV

20 In that day (the day the Holy Spirit comes) **you will know** (ginosko)
that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

BEFORE Jesus **talks about** our great need to **ABIDE** in **Ch 15**
FIRST – He says . . .

When the Holy Spirit comes **INTO** your life
you will have an **intimate, experiential knowledge** (ginosko)

that I am in my Father, - That you [are] in me,
and that **I [am] in you**

That **“Lays the Foundation”** – for the **CRUCIAL ROLE**
the Holy Spirit has – in our ability to **ABIDE** in Christ

Jesus says - **When** your life is **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit,
you will have an **Intimate Knowledge**

That Jesus & the Father are **ONE**

That You are **“IN CHRIST”**

That Christ is in **YOU**

Do you see that – here in **V.20** ?

Skip down to Jn 14:25-26 → →

Jn 14:25-26 – ESV

**25 “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.
26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name (AMP = to represent Me, to act on My behalf) , he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**

The **Holy Spirit’s role** – is to **TEACH** us all things

Back in **V.17** Jesus called Him the **Spirit of truth** because;

- 1) He will **teach** us **all things**
- 2) He will “**bring to remembrance**” the **Word of God**

We **can’t** even **BEGIN** to **Live** the Christian Life **without** the **POWER** of the **Holy Spirit** living in us

Because HE’s the One Who **TEACHES** us
& He’s the One Who **RENEWS** our **mind** with the **Word of God**

& **then** – in the **Very NEXT VS.**
there is that Great **PROMISE** that comes from **ABIDING**

Jn 14:27 – ESV

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. (still talking about the Holy Spirit) ***Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.***

This promise is **CENTRAL** - to the life of **ABIDING** in Christ

Jesus says ***Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you***
(talking about the Holy Spirit).

Not as the world gives do I give to you
(it’s NOT a **natural** peace, it’s a **supernatural** peace).

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid . . .

This could be a **DEFINITION** – of what it **LOOKS LIKE**
when we are **Resting** & **Abiding** in Christ

& it's **GIVEN** in the context - of **being FILLED** with the Holy Spirit

WHY ?? - - Because;

- 1 - (**v.20**) Thru the Holy Spirit we **intimately know** what it is to **Abide**
 - 2 - (**v.26**) The Holy Spirit **teach** us & **renews our mind**
 - 3 - (**v.27**) Thru the Holy Spirit comes the **Peace** of Jesus
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Let's **look** at *Another Reason* why we **NEED**
the **LIFE** & the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit in us, *in order to* **ABIDE**

Turn over to 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 (ESV)

9 But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

10 these things (that God has prepared) God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Do you see – we **can't even know** what God has **prepared** for us,
except thru **the Holy Spirit** ?

Then - the **Next Vs** explains **WHY** the things of God
MUST BE revealed to us **THRU** the Spirit of God

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 → →

1 Corinthians 2:11-12 (ESV)

11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, (why?) that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

THAT – is SO HUGE !

We've been **GIVEN** the Spirit of God,
so that we can **UNDERSTAND** the things of God

Because **WITHOUT** the Holy Spirit
We **CAN'T** even Understand the **Things of God**

Just **look down** Two Vs's – at **V.14**

1 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

14 The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

We cannot **Understand** or **Accept** the "**Things of God**"
On our **OWN** – in our own "**NATURE**"

It is only the Spirit of God *that LIVES in us*
that can RECEIVE the things of God into our lives

The Revelation - & the Power - of ABIDING in Christ
& the PEACE & REST that comes with that

comes THRU the Person of the Holy Spirit
Who lives in every True Believer – *for THAT exact purpose*

& so - We desperately NEED – to learn HOW
to ALLOW the Holy Spirit to LIVE in our Lives
& to have FREE REIGN *in our Lives*

We need to TRUST HIM - &
We need to SURRENDER CONTROL of our lives – *to HIM*

Alright – One more scripture
(Wed Night crew – you're really getting a "Double Dose")

Let's Turn over to Rom Ch 8

The TITLE at the beginning of Rom Ch 8 in the ESV – is
"Life In The Spirit"

& down in V.26 – we find out - that we can't even PRAY correctly
without the LIFE of the Holy Spirit Living in us

Romans 8:26–27 → →

Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought,

(not WHEN, not IF, but we DO NOT know)

but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words

(Notice, He doesn't show US how to pray - He prays FOR us).

27 And he who searches hearts (Father) knows what is the mind of the Spirit (He's One w/ the Spirit), because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to (in harmony with) the will of God.

This is such a **CRITICALLY IMPORTANT** Scripture to understand

How **BAD** do we need the **Life & Power** of the Holy Spirit ??

We **CAN'T** even **PRAY** right – without Him !!

But Ohhh . . . We HATE to surrender this control - don't we ??

But, but, but . . . what if the Holy Spirit prays for something that I DON'T WANT ??

Yeah . . . Ummm - - THAT would be the OPPOSITE of ABIDING in Christ

THAT – would be the OPPOSITE of what we taught last week . . .

That **IF** we will **REST in Christ** – God will **WORK in our Lives**

Remember – we said the Definition of **RESTING in the Lord** was;

Freedom from human striving & anxiety

Relinquishing self-assertion

Letting go of human control,

& Trusting in God

& I Promise you – that can **ONLY** be done
by the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit **LIVING** in us . . .

& by **US** giving Him **FREE REIGN** to;

Lead us, to **Guide** us

& even to **PRAY FOR** us (in our place)

in order to **align our prayers** with the Will of God

It is **ONLY** by the Power of the Holy Spirit
that we can **Truly SURRENDER** . . .

All of our **striving**,

All of our **struggling**, &

All of our **futile attempts** - at **controlling** our own life

& it is **THEN** – that we **begin to LEARN**

How to **ABIDE** in Christ

How to **REST** in Him

It is **THEN** – that we **begin to TAKE ON** the Life
that He has **hand-crafted** for us

& it is **THEN** – that we will find **REST** for our souls

Just as we said last week – in Mat 11:29 – ESV

29 Take my yoke (my hand-crafted life) upon you, and learn from me (become my disciple), . . . and you will find rest for your souls.

The Power Source – that Supernaturally **ENABLES** us to do this
is in **the Person** of the **Holy Spirit**

Now – you may be saying . . .

OK – so if The Holy Spirit is the **Power Source** . . .

Then **give Him** to **ME** – **so I can get - what I WANT**

Ohhh . . . - & **therein** lies the Problem, doesn't it ??

SO MUCH – of Learning to **ABIDE** in Christ,
has to do with the **TOTAL SURRENDER** of **SELF**

In my experience - **Learning** to **Abide in Christ** comes most often
thru the doors of **Brokenness** & **Complete Surrender**

& **So** – as we look – for the **next 3 WEEKS** – **at the “BIG HOW”**

as we look at **HOW** to grow
into an **ABIDING** relationship with Christ

Over & Over **we will return** to this Foundation . . .

That we must **SURRENDER** our **own Will**, & our **own Strength** -
to **learn to Abide** in the Life of Christ

& even that **POWER** – to **SURRENDER** our **Own WILL**
COMES thru the **Holy Spirit** living in us

We **CAN** become a Living Sacrifice !

We **CAN** Renew our Mind

We **CAN YEILD** to the Leading of **the Holy Spirit** in our lives
without demanding our own **WILL** - or our own **OUTCOME**

I know that sounds a **VERY SCARY** to the “**SELF-Nature**”
But **THAT** is where **ABIDING** – **BEGINS**

The Branch **doesn't** really get to do anything on its own
in fact – it **doesn't** really have a say in the matter

The LIFE of the VINE flows THRU the Branch

The Branch is simply the CONDUIT
for the Life of the Vine to Produce Fruit

& while the Life of the Vine (Christ)
is flowing thru the Branch (Us) . . .

The Vinedresser (The Father) – is always pruning the branch
to enable it to produce a higher & higher quality FRUIT

& guys - THAT is CONTRARY
to EVERYTHING in our Flesh – EVERYTHING in our Nature

Which is why we cannot approach ABIDING
like we try to approach so much in the Christian Life . . .

IN OUR OWN STRENGTH !!

Abiding is ALL ABOUT - Surrender

& the only way we can Surrender
our desire for SELF-CONTROL . . .

is for us to have COMPLETE FAITH in God
to Lead us & Guide us & Care for us

ALL of which He does, THRU the POWER of the Holy Spirit
Living in us

We **MUST** Learn about - **the Holy Spirit** in our lives - &

We **MUST** Practice - **Constant Surrender** to Him

Because if we **DON'T**

Abiding will **ALWAYS** be “just outside” our Reach

In his book – **Abiding in Christ** – **Andrew Murray** writes

Andrew Murray

Above all, He (The Holy Spirit) is the bond of fellowship between Christ and individual believers; He is the life-sap through which the Vine and the branch grow into real and living oneness: By Him (The Holy Spirit) we are one.

The Holy Spirit is the **AGENT**,

Thru Which - we become **ONE** with Christ

He is the **Bond of our Fellowship** with Christ

He is the **Life-Sap** – Thru which we **grow** into a **real & living oneness** with Jesus

Murray goes on to say – ***In Essence . . .***

If we will learn to **Trust** –

the Holy Spirit's **presence** - & His **working** in our Lives

If we are careful **NOT** to **grieve** Him by our Sin

If we will learn to **WAIT**, & **PRAY**, & be **FILLED** with the Spirit

Then the Holy Spirit will **Lead us** & **Teach us** . . .

He will **ENABLE** us - - **to ABIDE**

First – He will Lead us to a Whole-Hearted clinging to Christ

Then – He will Energize our Faith,
to Trust God – in EVERY area of our Lives

Finally – He will bring to our hearts,
the PEACE & JOY that passes understanding

He will BE our Supernatural Power
to ABIDE in Christ – & to REST in Him

***“It is impossible to live the life of Abiding in Christ,
without being CONTINUALLY FILLED with the Holy Spirit”***

Which is Exactly why Paul tells us in Eph 5:18
“Be constantly being filled with the Spirit” – LIT Translation

In the next 3 weeks – we’re going to look at 3 practical ways
to ***“Be constantly being filled with the Spirit”***

But for today – We NEED to know
We are CRACKED & LEAKY Vessels . . .

& so - we need to develop a habit
of DAILY ***“being constantly filled with the Spirit”***

WHY ??

Because- He is the Bond of our Fellowship with Jesus

He is the Life-Sap (as Murray says) – Thru which we grow
into a Real & Living ABIDING in Christ

& so - We must **ASK**, & Keep Asking
We must **SEEK**, & Keep Seeking
We must **KNOCK**, & Keep Knocking . . .

To “***be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit***”
not because **God** is **Hesitant** to **GIVE** us His Spirit
but because we must “***be constantly being filled His Spirit***”

Turn over to **Luk Ch 11**

Luk 11 begins w/ **Jesus’ teaching on Prayer**

& re: prayer, Jesus says - in Luk 11:9-10 - ESV

9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

These 3 words – **ASK** , **SEEK** , **KNOCK**

Are all - ***in the GREEK Present, Active, Imperative*** Form

Imperative means - **IT’S A COMMAND**

Present & Active mean – **TO DO** . . . & **KEEP ON DOING**

here is the “**Expanded Translation**” from the **GREEK**

By the respected **GREEK Scholar** – **Kenneth Wuest**

Luk 11:9-10 – N.T. Expanded Translation

I am saying to you, Keep on asking for something to be given, and it shall be given you. Keep on seeking and you shall find.

Keep on reverently knocking, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who keeps on asking for something to be given, keeps on receiving, and he that keeps on seeking, keeps on finding, and to the one who keeps on reverently knocking, it shall be opened.

Remember – **Jesus** is teaching about **PRAYER** here

& **what is it** - that Jesus **encourages** us to **KEEP ASKING** for . . .

Luk 11:11-13 - ESV

11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent;

12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

This famous Vs – About **Asking**, **Seeking**, **Knocking**
is about **RECEIVING** the **Holy Spirit !!**

& the **REASON** Jesus says; **KEEP Asking**, **Seeking**, & **Knocking** . . .

IS NOT because the Father is **Hesitant** to give us His Spirit

But **because** we need to “***be constantly being filled with the Spirit***”

Do you see that ??

You & I - **MUST** “***be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit***”

So we Must;

Keep on **ASKING** – So we will Keep on **RECEIVING**

Keep on **SEEKING** – So we will Keep on **FINDING**

Keep on **KNOCKING** - & the door will continue to be **OPENED**

Guys – That is a **LIFE-STYLE**
of **Total Dependence** on the **Holy Spirit**

Who is the **AGENT** – **Thru Which**
the **Life of Christ** - Flows **THRU** us

So – We Previously Defined **ABIDING IN CHRIST** as
Being Constantly, Vitally, United to Jesus, as our Life Source

Today – what I really want you to know is . . .

The **ONLY** way we can ever hope to do that
is **THRU** the **POWER** of the **Holy Spirit** living in us

& so - All that we'll discuss in the **Next 3 weeks** . . .

Re: us **ENTERING** into, & **REMAINING** in,
an Abiding relationship with Jesus Christ

Can **only be done** - **IN** & **THRU** the Life & Power
of the Holy Spirit living - with **FREE REIGN** in us

My **entire purpose** in this message
is to make sure we understand . . .

we **CANNOT** approach “**ABIDING in Christ**” - in our own Strength

Abiding in Christ - & **Resting** in Him
is a **Supernatural Transformation** of our Lives

& it **CANNOT** be done - in our **OWN STRENGTH**
there is just not enough TRY in us

We need to be “***constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit***”

We need to be “***constantly surrendering to HIS will***”

So – **let's practice** that right now

If you've **NEVER** asked God to **FILL YOU** with His Holy Spirit -
NOW would be a great time to do that

& If you've **NEVER SURRENDERED** your **SELF-WILL** to God,
& Truly asked Him to **take control** of your life . . .

NOW would be a **GREAT TIME** to do that

Let's Pray