

We're in our **6<sup>th</sup> msg** IN THE "ABIDE" series – so I'd encourage you to **get** the other **5 msg's** from Word-By-Mail – they're all **FREE**

& for **those** of you that have been **inching** thru this series with me **since** the first of the year . . . **THANK YOU** for your patience

We are **FINALLY**, today – at the **long awaited**,  
& **much anticipated** – - **BIG HOW !!**

It's like the **build up** to the **season finale** of your favorite **TV show**

they **promote it** & **promote it**, & **milk it** a little . . .  
in order to make sure you **WATCH it**

& I've been **kinda doing** the **same thing** in this series

**We've** been building up to the **BIG HOW**  
to try to **make it STICK**

**to give** us all a **better chance** of actually **APPLYING**  
these **critical truths** to our lives

**so that** we can Really **LIVE**  
in a **TRUE ABIDING** Relationship with Jesus Christ

Because **IN** that **ABIDING** Relationship with Jesus  
we **CAN BE** *victorious* thru **ANY circumstance**  
or **ANY situation** this world can throw at us

& **IN** that **ABIDING** relationship with Jesus  
we can **TRULY** be *used by Him* for the eternal **good**  
of those around us - - ***Amen ?***

**So we're** going to look at **THREE areas** of Abiding  
over the next **THREE weeks**

That's **NOT** to say there's **ONLY THREE**  
but we'll look at **Three CRITICAL** areas

**Here they are;**

Abiding in **PRAYER**

Abiding in the **WORD**

Abiding in **FELLOWSHIP**

& if we will really grasp **HOW** to Abide in Christ  
in these **THREE** areas

we'll be **well on our way** to *Abiding in Christ*  
in **EVERY area** of our lives – OK?

**Let's Pray**

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This is a **PRACTICAL Msg** – I'm going to give you  
some info to **WRITE DOWN** – ***so get out a pen***

It's been **5 Msgs** spread over **3 months** to get us to this point

**so** it's probably a good idea to **REVIEW** our Main Text in **Jn Ch 15**  
The full text is **Jn 15:1-11** (*please meditate on it often*)

But **for now** - Let's just Review **Vs's 4-8**  
to get us back on the "**Abiding**" Track

**John 15:4-8 (ESV)**

**4 Abide in me, and I in you . . .**

Formal Definition – *continuing in a permanent state*

Definition as Used here - *a continuous Living in Union with Christ being continually, vitally, united to Christ*

(cont v.4) . . . *As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.*

Fruit is the natural expression of LIFE

& in order for you to see the Life of Christ coming thru YOUR Life – you MUST be ABIDING in Him

That NEW LIFE – is HIS LIFE flowing thru you

***5 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.***

Jesus is the VINE – the Life-Source – We are the BRANCHES

If we're ABIDING  
then we're seeing the Life of Christ flowing thru our life

If we are NOT ABIDING  
we're NOT seeing, the Life of Christ flowing thru our life

***6 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.***

This vs is NOT about losing your salvation

It's about our USE-LESS-NESS if we are not Abiding in Christ

& then (v.7) is our key vs for today – It's Regarding Prayer

**7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.**

**If we are ABIDING in Christ - & if His Words are ABIDING in us then we will ASK according to His will - & *it will be done***

Now – obviously – we have to address the statement  
**“*Whatever you wish*” - & we will – at the end**

But for now – do you see a VERY Powerful BENEFIT  
of Abiding in Prayer ?? (*I hope so*)

& then finally – we have the Ultimate Purpose of our Abiding ??

**8 By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.**

Our ultimate purpose is to Glorify God - & we do that by;  
Bearing Much Fruit –  
which proves (shows) that we are His Disciples

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& ALL of THAT is accomplished – simply by ABIDING IN CHRIST . . .

Oh (you may say) – that sounds SIMPLE  
But we KNOW – it’s Not THAT EASY !!

Which is WHY our focus for the Next THREE WEEKS  
is HOW do we get ourselves into that place of ABIDING in Christ

Each of these 3 Topics (*Prayer, Word, Fellowship*) could be a  
Multi-Week Series - studying dozens of scriptures on each

But the focus of these 3 Msg's - is THE BIG HOW  
so these are (prayerfully) going to be Very PRACTICAL msgs

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& we'll start today – with ABIDING in PRAYER

If I were to ask pretty much any Christian – “*Is it Important to Pray?*”  
I would probably get the same answer – “*Of Course it is*”

But if I were able to get an honest answer from most Christians  
about HOW MUCH TIME we actually spend praying

The answer would NOT BE so AUTOMATIC – or EASY to come by

Because MOST of us have DIFFICULTY in both  
FINDING the time to Pray - & KNOWING HOW to Pray

So let's start first – with a foundational understanding:

It is absolutely, vitally, critically important  
that Christians be PRAYING

Martin Lloyd-Jones –1 of the Greatest Preachers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
(in Studies in the Sermon on the Mount):

Martyn Lloyd-Jones:

*Prayer is beyond any question the highest activity of the human soul. Man is at his greatest and highest when upon his knees he comes face to face with God . . . It is the highest activity of the human soul, and therefore it is at the same time the ultimate test of a man's true spiritual condition. There is nothing that tells the truth about us as Christian people so much as our prayer life.*

Prayer is the Highest Activity of the human soul  
AND is the Ultimate Test of a man's TRUE spiritual condition

Those are two Potentially RATTILING statements – Aren't they?

Especially if they come on the heels of US saying:

*Well, I just can't find the time to pray – or,  
I'm just not Big on Prayer*

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John MacArthur, *Alone with God*:

*For Christians prayer is like breathing . . . As believers we have all entered the divine atmosphere to breathe the air of prayer. Only then can we survive in the darkness of the world. Unfortunately many believers hold their spiritual breaths for long periods, thinking brief moments with God are sufficient to allow them to survive . . . The fact is, every believer must be continually in the presence of God, constantly breathing in His truths to be fully functional.*

YIKES – Now we're in trouble

Now our excuse that we don't have TIME or INTEREST to pray,  
*is like saying :*

*“You know, I just can't find the time – to BREATHE”, or  
“You know, I'm just not that in to BREATHING”*

WHY is it SO IMPORTANT that we learn how to PRAY ??

The SAME REASON it's Important that we learn how to BREATHE

Prayer is the DIVINE ATMOSPHERE  
in which a Christian BREATHES !! (*that's how important it is*)

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About 180 times in the NT - PRAYER is addressed in some way

We could Easily teach on prayer for a year straight,  
& never run out of Bible texts

But this msg - is focused on the BIG HOW  
HOW can we BEGIN – to Abide in Prayer

& so - to learn more ABOUT Prayer (& *you should*)  
Let me suggest a few great books

HOW TO PRAY – R. A. Torrey

ALONE WITH GOD – John MacArthur

THE GREAT HOUSE OF GOD – Max Lucado

These are ALL great books

How to Pray – written in 1900 - & a classic

Alone with God – digs deep into the Biblical texts

The Great House of God – easy & fun to read (great story teller)

PLEASE – seriously consider reading about

YOUR “*Spiritual Life-or-Death*” NEED for PRAYER

It's easiest if you go - AMAZON.COM – CHRISTIANBOOK.COM

some we carry - but if we don't have a book

it's faster, & costs the exact same

for you to go online & have it sent right to you

It really is a matter of Spiritual Life-or-Death that we learn to PRAY

& all I can do in One Msg – is point you in the right direction

We each have to do the homework ourselves

So please - *take the time* - & *put in the effort*

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You know - Jesus would not spend one minute  
outside His Abiding Relationship with the Father

& Again & Again Jesus would withdraw to a solitary place  
to commune with His Father – to gather strength and direction

& we MUST maintain that same type  
of constant communion - & constant contact - with Jesus

***THAT*** is what *Abiding in Christ* - ***MEANS*** !

& the 1<sup>st</sup> way we remain in constant communion  
& constant contact with Christ - is thru PRAYER

which is the same way Jesus did it - with The Father

There are a thousand things in this life  
that KEEP US from a Constant Communion with Christ

A thousand reasons WHY we just can't get around to it

& a Thousand applauses from the enemy  
when we convince ourselves of that

***Hell should be sending out THANK YOU CARDS***  
***to All Christians who REFUSE to Pray***

Because ONLY THRU Prayer  
is the Victory over our spiritual enemy won – ONLY thru Prayer



& by **NOT PRAYING** – we are **handing** our *Enemy*  
**Victory**, after **Victory** – in our lives

There is **SO MUCH** that can be taught  
about the Spiritual **Life-&-Death Need** – for **Prayer**

But for today – we **HAVE** to get to the **BIG HOW**  
**because** that's what I **promised**

**Abiding in Prayer** means **Constant Contact** with Jesus  
It's remaining **in the flow** of His **Life Source**

& **so** – we're going to look at **THREE STEPS** to  
**REMAIN** in the **Flow** of His **Life-Source**

We **could** easily do **THIRTEEN**  
But for today – Let's just do **THREE**

**STEP # 1 - RE-ARRANGE** our Life to **ensure**  
we are in **Constant Communion** with **God**

**if** we Desire - to **ENTER** or **REMAIN in the Life Source of Christ**  
**we** will have to **RE-Arrange** our life to do it

John MacArthur said **PRAYER** to a Christian – **is like BREATHING**

Would you be willing to **Re-Arrange** your life . . .  
**IN ORDER TO BREATHE ??**

Then **Spiritually** – we must **Re-Arrange** our Lives . . .  
**IN ORDER TO PRAY !!**

**STEP # 1 - RE-ARRANGE** our Life to **ensure**  
we are in **Constant Communion** with **God** (*like breathing*)

**Abiding in Prayer is - Continuing in a permanent state of**  
**Communion with Jesus**

And **NO-ONE** in this life **AUTOMATICALLY** Has **TIME** to do this

The **ONLY way** we're going to do this – is to **MAKE TIME**  
by **Arranging**, or **Re-Arranging**, our Life – *in order to Breathe*

**STEP # 1 - RE-ARRANGE** our Life to **ensure**  
we are in **Constant Communion** with **God**

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## **STEP # 2 – ALIGN our Prayer with God’s WORD & God’s SPIRIT**

This is a **TUFF step** - *We don’t like this*

**In fact** - - we steadfastly **AVOID** this - - - **WHY ?**

Because **GOD’S Word** & **GOD’S Spirit**

**MIGHT CONFLICT** with **OUR Will**, and **OUR spirit**

**Actually** – allow me **to re-state that** (for most of the time)

**GOD’S Word** - & **GOD’S Spirit** – *most of the time*

**WILL CONFLICT** with **OUR Will**, and **OUR spirit**

So – in order for us to **ABIDE** (*be united*) with **CHRIST**, in our **Prayers**  
**SOMEONE** has to be **Re-Aligned** (*either God or us*)

Either **GOD** has to Re-Align **HIS Will** – to **OURS**

Or **WE** have to Re-Align **OUR Will** – to **HIS**

**MOST** of our **Frustration** in Prayer **occurs RIGHT HERE**

We have **GOT** to learn how to Pray **ACCORDING** to God’s Word,  
& **IN LINE** with God’s Spirit

So **Let’s look** at the **easiest way** to do this

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**Many** of you have **seen me** teach this – but **please** bear with me  
this is **such** an **important** concept – we **can’t learn it** enough

**In your bulletin** is a white paper

On one side it says **Daily Light** (by Bagster/Lotz)

**Get that out** for me

**If you're listening** to this **later** & don't have this paper . . .

Please **get yourself** a copy of "**Daily Light**" by Bagster/Lotz,  
and "**Life Changing Moments with God**" by David Jeremiah  
& **as you listen** here - you'll **get** the idea

**REVIEW VS'S AND PRAY thru VS'S – EXPLAINING FOR WBM**

**Daily Light Scripture on top**

**Those Scrips turned into Prayer on bottom**

**& my Personal Prayers added to that**

Guys – we **MUST learn** how to **Align our Will** with **God's**  
**ONLY THEN** are we **Promised** to **Receive** what we pray for

& there is **NO BETTER WAY** to **Align our Will** with God's  
**Than** praying God's **OWN WORD** into our lives

We **MUST figure out** how to Pray  
**ACCORDING TO** - & **IN ALIGNMENT WITH** - God's Word

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**I've** actually given you **TWO EXAMPLES** of **HOW** to do this

The **2<sup>nd</sup> Example** is on the **other side** of your **insert**

& **for** the **WBM** family – **this EXAMPLE** is coming from a book  
called "**Face-To-Face, Praying the Scriptures**" – By Ken Boa

**Which** is another book I **highly recommend**

This book is a **Scripture Prayer GUIDE** – designed to **guide your prayer according** to the **Scripture** on **that Topic**

We're actually **looking here** at the **opening page** of **PART ONE** of this book

To **give you** an idea how this works – **Look down at # 8** (bottom) **The Scrips** used here are **PROV 3:5-6** & **ROM 8:28**

Just **TWO Scriptures** here – but this **could easily be** your **entire Prayer time** for one day (*week, month, year*)

## **PRAY THRU # 8** – EXPLAINING Vs's FOR WBM

**Add Personal Prayers**

**Does that** give you an **idea** of what it **means** to **Pray According to the Scripture?**

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**OK** – Now I also said **in this step** that we must **Pray According to God's Spirit**

Again – I **could do** a **6 week** series on this truth alone  
But **for today** allow me to **point out** just one thing

When you **SEE a Scripture** – Like we just read (**Prov 3:5-6**)  
***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and lean not on your own understanding”***

**What** I mean by **“Praying According to God's Spirit”** (*here*) is:

We **Must ALLOW** God's Word to **PEIRCE OUR HEARTS**  
& then we Must **BE HONEST** in our **Response** to God - in Prayer

**For Example** – Let's say we're **NOT** Trusting the Lord w/ all our Heart  
& we **ARE** leaning on our own understanding

**Then our prayer** – in **Response** to these Vs's would be . . .

## EXAMPLE PRAYER

What I mean (*here*) – By **Praying According to God's Spirit** is

**ALLOWING** the Holy Spirit to **CONVICT** us  
as we **slowly** and **careful** Read God's Word

In fact – **ASKING** the Holy Spirit to **CONVICT US**  
to **ARREST US** - - as we're **reading** God's Word

& **Then**, When He does – **AGREE** with Him – **CONFESS** our sin  
Be **HONEST** – **REPENT**

& **Change our LIFE** - or our **THINKING** – *Accordingly*

*Does that makes sense ??*

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**This is also** what puts us in the place where the **Promise of Jn 15:7**  
can **come to pass** in our lives

**Jn 15:7 (our key Vs today) says**  
*7 IF you abide in me, and [IF] my words abide in you, ask  
whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

This is a **CONDITIONAL** Promise

**IF** we are **ABIDING** in Him (*in Unity with Him*)  
& **IF** His words are **ABIDING** in us (*in Unity with your prayer*)

**THEN** – what you ask for will be in **Accordance** with **His Will**  
**AND** – it will be **done for you**

**Just like – John 14:14 says**  
*14 If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*

**IN MY NAME** means  
*According to the Full Nature & Character of Christ*

**1 John 5:14–15 (ESV)**  
*14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.  
15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.*

**ALL** we have to do is learn to **ASK**  
in **Accordance** with God's **WORD**, (*used Correctly & in Context*)

& **Praying** God's Word – **WILL BE IN** God's **WILL**  
& **IN** the **Character** & **Nature** of Christ . . .

***& we will have what we ask !!***

The **HARD PART** – is Asking **CORRECTLY**

**STEP # 2** – Align our Prayer  
with God's **Word** & God's **Spirit**

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There is **SO MUCH MORE** I could say - - **BUT** . . .

## **STEP # 3 – Pray without CEASING**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)**

***16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing,  
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***

**Praying without Ceasing** can be described as  
***“maintaining continuous communion with God”***

It is **A Constant Attitude of Communion** with Christ  
- It is **ABIDING** in an **ongoing attitude** of Prayer

**BREEZY** Described how She does this  
in **the Msg** She did at the **Women’s Retreat** last month

**When** we are **ABIDING** in Christ

**When** we are in **CONSTANT COMMUNION** with Him . . .

there is a **Constant FLOW of communication** between us

We are **interacting all day** long  
as the **Holy Spirit intercedes** for us and in us (**Rom. 8:26–27**)

**Weirsbe** says – It’s ***“keeping the receiver off the hook”***  
so that we’re **ALWAYS** in touch with God

This doesn’t take the place of **Dedicated**, **Focused**, **Earnest**,  
**Prayer & Supplication**

It is an on-going **“open communication”** with God  
by the **Holy Spirit** living in us



It's being open to Hearing from Him - & Addressing Him  
at ANY moment – regarding ANY circumstance before us

It's ABIDING in a Constant Communication with God

**Romans 12:12 (ESV)**

*12 . . . be constant in prayer.*

**Colossians 4:2 (ESV)**

*2 Continue steadfastly in prayer . . .*

**Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)**

*18 praying at all times in the Spirit . . .*

**To ABIDE in Prayer – we must:**

- 1) Develop Dedicated, Focused Times of Prayer
- 2) Learn to be in CONSTANT COMMUNION with God

**STEP # 3 – Pray without CEASING**

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So – Here are the steps – as we've had time to address them today

**STEP # 1 - RE-ARRANGE our Life to ensure  
we are in Constant Communion with God**

**STEP # 2 – ALIGN our Prayer  
with God's WORD & God's SPIRIT**

**STEP # 3 – PRAY without CEASING,**

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**Abiding in Prayer** is something that we **GROW INTO**

It takes **Effort**

It takes **Discipline**

It takes **Sacrificing** your **SELF Will**

And **it is** the most **wonderful Way** to **Live Every Day**  
In **Constant Communion** with the Lord . . .

**Interacting** with Him,

**Rolling Burdens** over to Him,

**Listening** for Him to speak to you,

**Responding** to Him, &

**Allowing** your life to be transformed by Him

**ALL** by simply **ABIDING in PRAYER**

Remember – Worship & Prayer **TONITE at 6:00pm** –  
**Discipleship Room** at the Church Office – ***See you there***

**Let's Pray**

## **EXTRA'S**

In Eph Ch 6 – the Subject is how a Christian can be Victorious in the constant Spiritual War we're in – against a very difficult enemy

And after describing the Armor of God we must continually put on to stand against the schemes of the devil . . .

THEN - Eph 6:18 describes the battle field – Eph 6:18 describes where the battle is fought - & where the Battle it is WON or LOST

V.12 makes it clear - we DO NOT battle against flesh & blood – but against spiritual forces in high places

& then Eph 6:18 describes WHERE that battle is fought

### **Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)**

***18 praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,***

Praying at ALL times, in the Spirit  
With ALL Prayer & Supplication  
Keeping Alert  
With all Perseverance  
Making Supplication for all the saints

This type of PRAYER is the MEANS (Method) BY WHICH we are able to stand strong in the Armor of God – & it is the Means (method) BY WHICH we are victorious in this life

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- III. The Key to [Bearing Fruit] the Answer to the Question—[John 15:7](#)
    - A. Abide in Him

1. Continue, endure, dwell, remain
2. Find your ultimate source, rest, satisfaction, etc., in Him

**B. Let His Word abide in you**

1. It takes up residence
2. It becomes the dominant factor in life

**C. Communicate with Him**

1. Prayer is part of abiding in Him
2. We overlook the fact that fruit is borne as a result of abiding in Him, His word abiding in us, and prayer

see W.E. Vine clipping to go with balance on Jn 15:7

(use Isa 40:31)

(use Psa 143)

### **Conditions for Power in Prayer**

Now the Lord deals with the fruitfulness of enjoyed union and communion, and shows that the indwelling of His words means power in prayer, and that the truly prayerful life is the fruitful life: **“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask \* whatsoever ye will, and it shall be done unto you”** (v. [7](#)). His words are vital principles; they are designed to inspire our motives and to direct our thoughts and prompt our acts. To have His words abiding in us gives us such communion with God that we can count upon His answers to our prayers. And this inevitably means productiveness. It is the very opposite to fruitlessness.

This asking and obtaining never affords self-gratulation. What it does effect is true discipleship of Christ, whose one and only motive was the glory of the Father. “Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; and so shall ye be My disciples” (v. [8](#)). Their discipleship had begun, but there was to be development and progress.

15:7 Abiding is the secret of a successful prayer life. The closer we get to the Lord, the more we will learn to think His thoughts after Him. The more we get to know Him through His Word, the more we will understand His will. The more our will agrees with His, the more we can be sure of having our prayers answered.<sup>1</sup>

**7. If ye abide in me, and my words ... in you**—Mark the change from the inhabitation of *Himself* to that of His *words*, paving the way for the subsequent exhortations (Jn 15:9, 10). **ask what ye will, and**

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<sup>1</sup> MacDonald, W., & Farstad, A. (1997). *Believer's Bible Commentary : Old and New Testaments* (Jn 15:7). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

**it shall be done unto you**—because this indwelling of His words in them would secure the harmony of their askings with the divine will.<sup>2</sup>

This astounding command and promise (γενησεται [*genēsetai*], future middle of γινομαι [*ginomai*], it will come to pass) is not without conditions and limitations. It involves such intimate union and harmony with Christ that nothing will be asked out of accord with the mind of Christ and so of the Father. Christ's name is mentioned in 15:16; cf. 14:13; 16:23.<sup>3</sup>

7. The **words** of Christ, as well as the person of Christ, may abide in the believer. It is the teaching of Christ that gives rise to the proper kind of praying. When the word of Christ dwells richly within (Col 3:16), one may safely ask what he **will**, and it **shall be done**. The teaching is similar to that in Jn 14:13, 14. 8. Discipleship is a growing, dynamic thing. The more fruit we bear, the more truly are we **fulfilling** the pattern of **disciples**, those who learn of Christ in order to be like him. God is **glorified** thereby. He is vindicated and rewarded for his investment in the vineyard.<sup>4</sup>

**15:7 abide in Me, and My words:** There are five results of abiding in Christ: answered prayer (v. 7), fruit (v. 8), a fulfilled purpose, my Father is glorified (v. 8), experiencing love (vv. 9, 10), fullness of joy (v. 11) and effective evangelism (13:35; 15:8). Abiding in Christ involves personal communion with Him. Abiding in His Word includes obedience. Getting to know the Savior makes believing in Him an obvious response which leads to loving obedience. Notice how the apostle Paul presented this process (Phil. 3:10).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments* (Jn 15:7). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 15:7). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

<sup>4</sup> Pfeiffer, C. F., & Harrison, E. F. (1962). *The Wycliffe Bible commentary : New Testament* (Jn 15:7). Chicago: Moody Press.

<sup>5</sup> Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (Jn 15:7). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.