

We're in our **FOURTH** Msg in the "**ABIDE**" series today

But the **Msg's** have come **a little choppy** so far
so **let's review** where we've been up to this point

Let's Pray first

The **series started** with a Msg titled – "**Abide to Thrive**"
& in that Msg we said

ABIDING in Christ - is the **CONDUIT** (the Channel) – **THRU WHICH**
all **Victory**, All **Peace**, & All **Joy** in the Christian life **COMES**

We looked closely at the "**Abiding**" Passage in **Jn Ch 15**

& we saw the **CRUCIAL** Need for every Christian
to **ABIDE** in the Life of Christ (the Vine)

& to **ALLOW** the **Father** (the Vinedresser) to **PRUNE** us
to allow the **Life** & the **Fruit** of Jesus Christ – to **FLOW** thru us

We **DEFINED** the word **Abide** as

***"a continuous Living in Union with Christ" - or
"remaining Vitally United to Christ"***

& it is by ***remaining Vitally United to Christ*** (Abiding) . . .

that we find - **Transformation**, **Victory**, **Peace**, & **Joy**
as we **PASS THRU** the **CIRCUMSTANCES** of this world

& then – our **LAST** Msg was – “**Top Priority: A Love Relationship**”

In **that Msg** we focused on two Very Critical Truths

1) **Your Love Relationship with God is the Single Most Important, Top Priority, in your life.**

& **that's Because**

2) **EVERYTHING in your Christian Life DEPENDS on the Quality of your Love Relationship with God**

We **developed** that Entire Msg out of the **SHEMA**

Both from the O.T. & the N.T. - - *which I absolutely LOVED*

& **understanding** how in both the **O.T.** & the **N.T.**

The **SUMMATION** of **ALL** that we are called to

is **WRAPPED UP** in our **Love relationship** with God . . .

Understanding that – Lays the Foundation

for **understanding ALL** these Msg's on **Abiding**

But there was **one other** previous **Msg**

It was actually **Msg #2** - & it was called “**Our Need to Abide**”

& in that Msg we **looked** at the **difference** between

the **UNCONDITIONAL** Promises of Jesus

the **CONDITIONAL** Promises of Jesus

In **Jn 16:33** we saw

the **UNCONDITIONAL** Promise - *In the world you will have tribulation*

& the **CONDITIONAL** Promise - *in me (Abiding in Me) you may have peace . . . [because] I have overcome the world*

& in that Msg **we looked closely** at the fact that

The **PEACE** that *Overcomes* this World is **CONDITIONAL**

It's **CONDITIONED** upon us – **ABIDING in Christ**

& we started **coming to grips** w/ the fact - The **promises** of **Living The Abundant Life** in Christ - are **NOT AUTOMATIC**

In this **same Msg** (**Our Need to Abide**) we studied **Mat 11:29**

Mat 11:29 - ESV

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me (conditions), . . . and you will find rest for your souls (part of the abundant life).

& **THAT** is exactly what **this series** is about

We're **LONGING** to comprehend what it means

to take the **LIFE** (*Yoke*) on that **Jesus** has for us

& to **LEARN** from Him (be a *Disciple*)

SO THAT we can find **REST IN HIM**

in **the midst** of this *Crazy World*

& **it is** actually that **REST** that we're going to **talk about** today

So – that catches us up, right?

There's just one more thing I definitely need to REITERATE

I've tried hard to make it clear - we are NOT talking about ADDING anything to our Salvation

What we're talking about - & What we clearly see in the Bible is a GROWTH or MATURITY of God's people

from an initial FAITH in WHO Jesus Christ IS to a Life-Changing ABIDING in His Love – as True Disciples

When Jesus CALLED the first 12 disciples to follow Him it's safe to say – in the beginning, they were . . . learning

But after Pentecost - & the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

This rag-tag group of Disciples eventually Grasped How to ABIDE - & How to THRIVE - in the Life of Christ

When the Apostle Paul met Christ on the road to Damascus he was SO Changed he even got a New Name

But even the Apostle Paul took time (many years) to learn how to ABIDE in the Life of Christ

& this same Concept – of GROWING, & MATURING in an "Abiding Relationship" with God

was just as true in the O.T. with every Man/Woman of God we can read about there

All we've done so far
is to look at the Absolute Critical Requirement

that we not only SAY we believe
in WHO Jesus is - - & WHAT He's done for us

But that we actually learn to ABIDE in His Love – AS His Disciples

We're talking about MATURING into a Life with Jesus Christ
that ACTUALLY *changes* how we; Think – Respond – React

We're talking about living a life of;
Unshakable Confidence in God
Peace that Passes Understanding
Victory in the midst of the World
& of True REST for our souls

A life that is a True WITNESS, a TESTIMONY
to the Power of God & the Life of Christ – in us

A life that is Radically Transformed
& Radically Different – than those who don't have Christ

AMEN ??

Alright – that's a LONG review & introduction
so we better get to some Bible Study

Again - the title of the Msg today is;
If I Rest, Will God Work?

& what I mean by that is → →

If I make my Love Relationship with God my #1 priority

If I FOCUS on ABIDING in Christ . . .

If I REST in THAT . . .

will God WORK in my life - to bring about
His good Plan & His good Purpose ?

If a REST in Christ

Will God WORK in my life . . . ???

Let's start by DEFINING the Word REST
as we're using it here

Dictionary of Biblical Imagery

*Freedom from human striving, acquiring,
worldly preoccupations, & anxiety*

Relinquishing self-assertion and trusting in God

Letting go of human control

Moody's Theological Wordbook

The absence of disturbance from external causes

*Being settled in a particular place,
with overtones of victory & salvation*

This REST is NOT a Lack of ACTIVITY

It's a LACK of Inner CONFLICT (Struggle)

It's being Settled, Confident, Faithful

Trusting God, & Relinquishing our own Control

Do you understand HOW we're using the word ?

Let me give you some Biblical Examples – 1st O.T.

Isa 30:15

15 For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." . . .

Psa 37:7

7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, . . .

Psa 62:1-2

1 For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

2 He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

Psa 121:1-2

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

This REST is - a Settled, Confident, Faithful, TRUST in God

& a Crucifying of Self-assertion, Striving, & Human Control

Psa 138:8 says

8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever . . .

This **REST** – Is a **TRUST** in God

That He is constantly **AT WORK** in our Lives . . .

& He **WILL** **Fulfill His Purpose** for us

If we will **TRUST** Him, & **REST** in His Love

Does that make **sense**?

Let's Look at a few from the N.T.

2Cor 1:21-22 - ESV

21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,

22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Is there some Truth in there that should allow us – to REST ?

Eph 3:20 - ESV

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,

God is ABLE to do FAR MORE than we can ask or think

But just as in Salvation there was the Requirement that we PUT our Faith in Christ to do this . . .

There is now the SAME Requirement that we WALK in Faith in Christ, for Him to do HIS WORK

Col 2:6-7 - ESV

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,

7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith . . .

Do you SEE IT ??

God is MORE than ABLE - & MORE than WILLING

But we must Learn to WALK in the FAITH that ALLOWS Him to Work

We must **ABIDE** in the **Life of Christ**
We must **REST** in **His WORK** in our Lives

Alright – let's **look closely** at a **KEY Scrip**

Phil 2:12-13 – (turn there)

This scrip is about the **GROWTH** Process
of learning to **REST** in God - & allow **HIM** to **work** in our lives

These Vs's come Just After the incredible truth (in Phil 2);
that God has **highly exalted** Jesus Christ
& given Him a **Name** which is **above** every **name**
& that at His name **EVERY Knee** will **BOW** in Heaven & on Earth
& **EVERY Tongue** Confess that Jesus is **LORD**,
to the **Glory** of the **Father**

& then the **VERY NEXT vs** – **V.12** says

Phil 2:12-13 – ESV

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Remember – the **QUESTION** is;
If a REST in Christ – Will God WORK in my life ??

But **at first glance** this scripture **seems to say**
EVERYBODY'S Working - - - Us **AND** God

But let's **take a little closer look** at it

Let me put up these Vs's in the AMP Bible
& they'll start to become really clear

Phil 2:12-12 – AMP

12 Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling . . .

13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

1st Let's Deal with the phrase "Work Out" your own salvation

The GREEK means LIT – "*To carry to its ultimate conclusion*"

So – Tell me this . . .

WHAT is The BASIS of Your Salvation ??

The BASIS of Your Salvation
is your UNION with Jesus Christ, THRU Faith

& that UNION is Evidenced
in a Personal Relationship with Him

Now - look at the descriptive words the AMP Bible uses
for our "WORKING OUT" our Salvation

cultivate (Your UNION with Christ) (your salvation)
dig deep, into your relationship (Union) with Christ

carry out (your salvation) **to the goal** - the **GOAL** of your Salvation is being **ONE** with Christ – **ABIDING** in Him

Paul says – *That I may know Him* (Phil 3:10)

& - *It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me* (Gal 2:20)

These are “**ever-deepening**” relationship terms

& then **V.12** says - **fully complete** (your salvation) meaning to **grow to maturity** your UNION with Christ,

So - our **ROLE** is to **GROW** in, **ABIDE** in, **REST** in our **VITAL UNION** with Jesus Christ

Do you see it ??

OK – So if we are **GROWING** in, **ABIDING** in, **RESTING** in our **VITAL UNION** with Jesus Christ (our Salvation)

Then – **WHAT** is God doing ??

(again) **Phil 2:13 - AMP**

13 [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

We have **GOT to SEE** this today

If we will **CULTIVATE**, **GROW IN**, **CARRY TOWARD COMPLETION** Our **UNION** with Jesus Christ (our salvation)

THEN – (not in our own strength) – **God will, all the while,** be **EFFECTUALLY** at work in us

Effectual means – **Producing a Desired Effect**

If we will **Cultivate & Grow**
in our **ABIDING** Relationship with Christ

God will be **AT WORK** in us
to **Produce** HIS **Desired Effect** !!

HOW does He do that ?? (v.13)

By **energizing and creating in you the desire and power**

God creates in you the **DESIRE**
& then He **ENERGIZES** you with the **POWER** . . .

To do **WHAT** ?? (v.13)

both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight

God **Creates** in us the **Desire**

God **Energizes** us with the **Power**

So that we will **HAVE** His **WILL** - - & **DO** His **WORK** . . .

for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight

If We will REST in our Relationship with Jesus Christ

God will **Work** to Bring about **HIS Good**, in our Lives

Do you SEE IT ??

This exact same Truth is seen in Pro 3:5-6

Pro 3:5-6 - ESV

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Resting), and do not lean on your own understanding (Resting).

6 In all your ways acknowledge him (Resting), and he will make straight your paths.

We REST in Him – which means;

We **TRUST** in Him completely

We **REFUSE** to trust in our own understanding

We **ACKNOWLEDGE** Him in all our ways

AND . . . GOD WORKS . . .

He will make straight your paths

He will **Create** in you His Desire

He will **Energize** you with His Power

To align you with His **Will**, for you to do His **Work**

& **THAT** – is the **Branch ABIDING** in the Vine – Resting
knowing that the life of the **VINE** is **working thru it** to produce fruit

& knowing that **the Vinedresser** is *caring*, & *pruning*,
& *doing what's best* for the branch

If we will learn to **ABIDE (TO REST)** in the Lord
God will *make our paths* **STRAIGHT**

He will **effectually** work in us - **creating** in us the **desire**
& **energizing** us with His **power**

both to **will** and to **work** for His good pleasure

As we close – Let's talk a bit – of how we commonly begin to get to this place of **RESTING** in the Lord

As **Sinners** saved by Grace - we most often **begin** our Relationship with Jesus Christ - with **self-centeredness** & self-effort

Meaning we often **DEMAND** what we **WANT**
& Do what we **WANT** to try to get it

These approaches to God **ALWAYS lead**
to **dissatisfaction** & **discouragement**

& **then**, often when we're **just about** to **give up** . . .

in our **brokenness** we find
that we really can **REST** & **ABIDE** in Christ

& we find that as we **REST** & **ABIDE**, the **Holy Spirit** (The Life of God) becomes our **strength**, our **peace**, and our **guide**

What I have **personally experienced** about the **Abiding Life**;

Is that it **most** always **comes** thru a **crisis of belief**
that **leads us** to the gifts of **brokenness** & **humility** . . .

& a **reliance on God** that truly **transforms** how we look at everything
& how we **react** & **respond** to everything around us

& that total **RELIANCE** on God brings us **REST**,
& **Peace** that passes understanding,
in the midst of a world of **tribulation**

Once our **Self-Centeredness** & our **Pride** is **Broken**,
the way is opened for us to **REST** in God,
& allow Him to WORK in our lives

& **when** we do that - we **become the branch**
that has the **life** of the **Vine** flowing thru it

We **trade** all of our **SELF-EFFORT** in
for the **True Life** of God **flowing** thru us

& we find **REST** (absence of conflict)
as the **Life of God** works **in** & **thru** us

V. Raymond Edmond – President of Wheaton College for 25 yrs;
***We find newness of life in Christ by receiving Him as our Savior
from the penalty of sin. Abundance of that life we find by
surrendering self and drawing on the unfailing resources of the
Almighty.***

This is the ***Abundant life*** of **Jn 10:10**

We **SURRENDER** our **SELF** working, and we **REST** in the Vine
Drawing on the **Life of Christ** for all we need

I KNOW what we all want is the **“HOW”**

I KNOW you've been waiting for it since the first msg

But I **promise you** – This **IS** the **beginning** of **the How**

These are the **things** we've got to understand
before trying to reduce this to **THREE EASY STEPS**

What we're saying today is;

ABIDING in Christ - RESTING in our Relationship with Him

Is the BIG GOAL – It's the Big Picture HOW
& we'll get to the details SOON enough

But to illustrate the Big Picture (again) . . .

Allow me to PARAPHRASE

a PORTION of a Poem by A.B. Simpson
Founder of the Christian Missionary Alliance

The Poem is called HIMSELF

& I apologize for PARAPHRASING it

I just wanted to take out some of the OLDE ENGLISH

& have you really focus on the Truths in it

Himself – A.B. Simpson (a portion, paraphrased)

Once I wanted the blessing, now I want the Lord

Once I wanted the feeling, now I want His Word

Once I wanted His gifts, Now I want the Giver

Once I wanted the healing, now Himself alone

Once I was busy planning, now it's trusting prayer

Once it was anxious caring, now He has the care

Once it was what I wanted, now it's what Jesus says

Once it was constant asking. now it's ceaseless praise

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be

Once I tried to use Him, now He uses me

Once the power I wanted, now the Mighty One

Once for self I labored, now for Him alone

Do you see – at least part - of the big “**HOW**” there ??

As long as we are **consumed** with our own **plans** & own **efforts**
for our **Christian Life** – we will **fail continually**

All our **SELF effort** for God – Only **gets in His Way**

But if we will **SEEK HIM**

To **ABIDE** in Him - - To **REST** in Him

Then we give Him room to **WORK**

to bring about His plan & His purpose for our lives

in quietness and in trust shall be your strength (Isa 30:15)

Phil 1:6 says - ESV

6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

We can Trust God to “**Bring to Completion**”

the **Good work** He has **started** in us

But We **DO have a role** – We must **REST in Him** - **ABIDE in Him**,

We must CULTIVATE our Relationship with Him

If we will **REST** – ***in an ABIDING Relationship with Him***

He will **WORK** in us – both to **WILL** & to **WORK**

For His **Good Pleasure**, & His **Good Purpose**

→ → →

Would you **take a moment** with me today
to **CONSIDER** Your **Abiding Relationship** with Jesus Christ

Abiding means - to be “*Continually Vitally United*” to Christ

Maybe you've **never made** a commitment
to **that TYPE** of **Relationship** with Jesus

Or **maybe** you thought **you had** a **Relationship** with Jesus

but **maybe** the Holy Spirit has **revealed** to you
that you've **NEVER** had an **Abiding, Trusting, Personal Relationship**

But Honestly – that is **the ONLY kind** of Relationship
the Bible says that **Jesus wants** with you

Let's Pray

EXTRA'S

There is one more thing that I need to clarify here – When I refer to God working – Him bring His plans & Purposes to pass in your life - - I'm talking about the most important things in our life – which are the SPIRITUAL things

Please don't misinterpret these huge spiritual truths – If I say, God will WORK – I'm not saying God will give you all your circumstances just like you want them – Im not saying God will grant your fleshly wishes or your worldly wishes

There are a lot of Christians who have been mislead into thinking that if they will do this or that for God

that He will **FIX** all their **circumstances**
& make everything just like THEY want them to be

But what Jesus actually Promises is - peace & rest & victory
RIGHT THRU the circumstances & the Tribulations of this world

& because Jesus PROMISED us Tribulation In this world – I promise you – us learning how to REST, & ABIDE in Christ – in the midst of our circumstances 0 whether abounding or abasing – I promise you, THAT is the supernatural foundation of the Christian Life - & THAT is what Jesus promised us – REST, & PEACE, & VICTORY – THROUGH our circumstances & Tribulations

Guys – I've been watching Christians ask God to fix their circumstances for over 25 years . . .

& have you ever seen a child who's parents give them whatever they ask for – every time they demand something??

& have you ever seen a child who's grown up learning how to cope in a Godly way with the realities & the difficulties in life??

Which child grows into a mature, balanced adult ??

& what do you think your Heavenly Father wants you to be?

The spoiled brat that's always demanding their own way
or the trusting child who knows their Father truly does know best?

Thoughts from “They found the secret” (credit)

The details of how we each learn to Abide in Christ will vary greatly- but there are some general truths that seem to be relatively constant in lives that have learned to truly “Abide in Christ”;

- 1) Out of discouragement & defeat, they have come into victory
- 2) Out of weakness & weariness they have been made strong
- 3) Out of ineffectiveness for the kingdom, they have become fruitful & passionate

2Cor 1.21, 1Pet 5:10 , 2Thes 3.3 , Eph 3:18-20, Col 2.7, **Psa 138:7-8**