

Hello, I'm Pastor Denise Satrape, Ron and I are the Lead Pastors at CLC, and thank you for joining us on this last devotion in this season of prayer and fasting. It is our hope that you've enjoyed these devotions. If you missed any of them or would like to listen to them once again, you will find them on our website, citlchurches.org or on the church App- Christian Life Church Maine under the media tab.

Our theme for this season is from John 15:4-5

John 15:4-5 (NASB) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Jesus often uses metaphors and parables to help us understand many different aspects of our faith. John 15 gives us a vivid representation of what our relationship with Christ should look like.

With Jesus as the true vine, the Father as the vinedresser, and us, the disciples, as the branches. He describes how the branches cannot bear fruit without abiding in the vine.

What does it mean to "abide?" Abide, literally, means to 'stay' or 'remain.' To abide in the Lord means that we ***continually receive, believe and trust that Jesus is everything we need.***

When we abide in Jesus, **we remain steadfast as we "walk in Him", "depend on Him", and are "intentional with acts of faith".**

We Remain by WALKING IN CHRIST

Colossians 2:6-7 (NASB) Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

When we walk in Christ, we are allowing His word to lead us & direct us by following His light:

(Psalm 119:105) "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

We learn what it means to walk in Christ by reading His Word. It is His word that will illuminate our path and shows us what pleases God.

We Remain by **DEPENDING ON THE LORD** - Matthew 4:4 tells us 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Just as a branch is dependent on the vine, we are dependent on Jesus to sustain us and give us life. His word is living and active. Without it, we are like the lifeless branch that is thrown away.

John 15: 9-10 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love."

His word is the only path we can follow for us to truly live. We can never live fruitfully or glorify Him if we do not recognize our dependence on Christ. Once we recognize this truth, we can experience complete joy as the word shares in John 15:11

We Remain by BEING INTENTIONAL Colossians 3:17-18 (NASB) Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

We can abide in the Lord every single day by making intentional decisions to be faithful to Him. This may look like dedicating time to read Scripture or pray, being in community with the Church, and rejecting temptation to fight sin. It is so easy to get caught up in the challenges and busyness of everyday life and forget to be intentional with our faith. Making a point to be faithful glorifies God and nourishes our spirit. When we know God, we can live intentionally according to His plan for us with daily practices of prayer, worship and our intentionally acts of service to best glorify Him.

Although we are at the end of the fast, my prayer is that you are at the beginning of a deepened walk with God where you will live more dependent on Him, as you intentionally live your life that reflects a living and growing relationship with the One who has pursued you with an everlasting love.

Heavenly Father, be our Vinedresser and help us to be a people who remain steadfast in our walk, dependency and intentionality in our commitment to you. amen