

The Bible teaches us that God is a God who makes promises, and the question is, are you willing to trust Him? Are you willing to take God at His Word?

I think what we really need to know today from this promise of God is that

### **FREEDOM COMES FROM THE WORD OF GOD.**

In this text, Jesus promises that one action causes three results.

V. **8:31a** - "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him." Do you believe that Jesus spoke the truth? If so, I want you to notice what He says next.

#### **The Action** - Abide in the Word of Christ. **8:31b**

I need to clarify three words for us.

(#1 - "If") When Jesus says "if", He is saying that the choice is yours. This same word is translated "whoever" in other parts of the Bible. Jesus is saying, *"whoever chooses to do so, if you make this choice, and time will tell as to whether or not you make this choice. If you choose to abide in my word, then I promise you, there will be results."*

(#2 - "Abide") What does it mean to abide? To abide means to remain, to continue, to spend time in, to hold on to, to never leave, to last, to wait on, to stay in. We could word Jesus' words this way, *"if you stick to my words and hold on to them, trust them, and live according to them.."*

(#3 - "My word") From a pre-cross perspective, when Jesus says "My word," I believe He is talking about everything He has said up to this point in His ministry, especially the part about Him being lifted up on a cross to die. Jesus' words are what He said, but for us who are reading this today, we understand that Jesus' words are not just the red letters of your Bible. **Jesus' word is the Bible**. Scripture is said to be breathed out by God. The Bible is written by men, but it is the product of God. It is literally the Word of God. That is what 2 Timothy 3:16 teaches. The Bible also teaches us that Jesus Himself is the living Word of God who is God. If Jesus is the living Word of God, and He is God Himself, then that means that the Bible is a product of Jesus just as much as it is a product of the Father and a product of the Spirit. From a post cross perspective, and from a perspective that the Bible is the complete word of God, we take the stance that when Jesus tells us to abide in His word, He is saying, *"live your life according to the Bible."*

If I could paraphrase this action for you today, I would word it this way:

*"If those of you who are in this room today because you believe Jesus is worth considering, if you hold dearly to and live your life according to the Word of Christ - the Bible.. then these three results, I promise you, will come."*

**Result #1** - You will truly be a disciple of Jesus. **8:31c**

Jesus is not in the business of gathering people to believe in Him solely for the purpose that they may have eternal life. Jesus wants to go beyond that. He wants the eternal life that God gives a person through Jesus to impact every area of that person's life. He wants you to excel in the Christian life. Yes, He wants us to have eternal life, but more than that, He wants us to have an abundant life, living life the way the Creator of Life designed life to be lived.

How would you like for Jesus to say of you when you get to heaven, "you were truly my disciple."? If you would like God to say that of you, then you go to work on the action. Live your life according to the Bible. Read it. Study it. Go to a church where they carefully teach you the Bible. Take every opportunity you have to be taught the Word of God by those who love God and know His Word.

**Result #2** - You will understand Truth. **8:32a**

Psalm 119:160 - "The sum of your word is truth."  
John 17:17 - "Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth."

The Bible is truth, but the Bible is not an easy book to understand. What Jesus is saying to us though is this: if you commit yourself to learning the Bible, then you will be committing yourself to knowing what is true. If you honestly commit to learning the truth of the Bible, God will teach you. The Bible will not be a confusing and large book anymore; it will become a book that comes to life for you. The Bible will become a book that you cherish, because it will become a guide to your life. It will be a comfort to your life. It will give you confidence in life. You will be able to comprehend what is taking place in your life because you know the Bible. You will know the truth, and there is something freeing about the truth.

**Result #3** - You will be set free by the truth. **8:32b**

Without the truth of God, there is no freedom. This not something that people are quickly convinced of. This is something you have to experience for yourself. The message of Christ is this: we are slaves to sin, but He has come to set us free.

Freedom comes from the Word of God.

Would you like to be free today? Abide in the word of Christ. Study the Bible to know what is true. The truth of Jesus is the only thing that can fully and finally set a person free from guilt, shame, sin and its penalty, sin and its power, and ultimately, the presence of sin.

Are you willing to take God at His Word? The choice is yours.