

THE ABC's
of
Becoming
A Better Christian

ABIDE

Key Verse

John 15:4-12 (NKJV)

4 **ABIDE** in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it **ABIDES** in the vine, 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, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not **ABIDE** in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If you **ABIDE** in Me, and My words **ABIDE** in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; **ABIDE** in My love.

10 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.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.



What Does It Mean To Abide In Him?

To Abide means “to remain; continue; stay, to dwell; or to reside”...

In the Scriptures, the word paints a picture of a *greater intimacy...*
and is often used to show **THE NEED TO RELY** on the Lord in every aspect of one’s life.
{If I Choose Not To Abide... It Suggests To The Lord... *I Can Do It Myself*}

To “**ABIDE**” is a verb. It is active. Abiding in Christ is not a feeling or a belief, but something **WE DO**.
It means to “**REMAIN**” or “**STAY**” and *requires far more* than the idea of continued belief in the Savior.

The phrase **ABIDING IN CHRIST** pictures an intimate, close relationship,
and not just a superficial **ACQUAINTANCE**.

In essence, To Abide requires an attachment and not just **CLOSE ASSOCIATION**.

J.C. Ryle explains, “To **ABIDE** in Christ means to keep up a habit of **CONSTANT CLOSE COMMUNION**
With **HIM**—to be **ALWAYS LEANING** on **HIM**, and **RESTING** on **HIM**...”



Abide in WHO?

*John 15:4 ~ ABIDE in **ME**, and I in you....*

*John 15:7 ~ If you ABIDE in **ME**, and My words ABIDE in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done*

*There are plenty of people “in” religion; and there are plenty of people “in” the church.
There are many who are moral, upstanding people, but that does not mean that they are “in” HIM!*

In fact, many are and will be deceived in this matter....

Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT)

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Only those who **ACTUALLY DO THE WILL OF MY FATHER** in heaven will enter.*

22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’

*23 But I will reply, ‘I never **KNEW YOU**. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’*

Salvation Should Lead To Sanctification

John 1:12 (NIV)

*12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God—*

Once You Receive Him... Now Remain In Him

John 8:31 (NIV)

*31 To the Jews who had **believed him**, Jesus said, "If you **hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples.*

Abide in WHO?

John 15:7 ~ If you ABIDE in ME, and My words ABIDE in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done...

Biblical Illustration

Mark 10:17-22 (NIV)

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him.

"Good teacher," *he asked*, "*what must I do to inherit eternal life?*"

18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.

19 *You know the commandments*: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'

20 "*TEACHER,*" *HE DECLARED, "ALL THESE I HAVE KEPT SINCE I WAS A BOY."*

21 Jesus looked at him and *loved him*. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. *Then come, follow me.*"

22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

He Was Connected To His Cash and Comfortable Life ~ He Refuses To Release It To Follow JESUS...

He did not receive what he asked... Because He Did Not Allow The Word To Become His Priority



Abide In WHAT?

John 15:7, 9-10 (NIV)

7 If you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now **remain in my love**.

10 If you obey my commands, you will **remain in my love**, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and **remain in his love**.

Two Key Elements To Abide IN: HIS LOVE and HIS WORD

Requires: A Continual Trust in the Truth of Jesus's Words and A Continual Trust in The Certainty of His Love.

Abiding In His Love

Not to abide in Jesus's love would mean that we **STOP BELIEVING THAT WE ARE LOVED BY JESUS**. We look at our circumstances—perhaps persecution or sickness or abandonment—and we conclude that **we are not loved by Jesus anymore**. We Allow Our Circumstances To Separate Us From His Love. So abiding in his love means **CONTINUING TO BELIEVE**, moment by moment, **THAT WE ARE LOVED**.

Romans 8:37-39 (NLT)

37 No, **despite all these things**, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, **WHO LOVED US**.

38 And I am **convinced** that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love**. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell **can separate us from God's love**. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to **separate us from the love of God** that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Abide In WHAT?

Abiding In His Love

Circumstances Will Make You Lose Separation?

Matthew 11:2-6 (NLT)

2 John the Baptist, *who was in prison*, heard about all the things the Messiah was doing. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, 3 *“Are you the Messiah we’ve been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?”*

4 Jesus told them, “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—

5 the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor. 6 And tell him, ‘*God blesses those WHO DO NOT TURN AWAY because of me.*’”

Curiosity Will Make You Lose Separation?

Luke 15:11-16 (NIV)

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, *the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.*

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but *no one gave him anything.*

As easy as it seems to abide, to stay implanted, and to rest in Jesus, the truth is that we are often tempted to find our LIFE-GIVING SUPPLY FROM OTHER SOURCES.

Abide In WHAT?

Abiding In His Love

Comfort Zones Will Make You Lose Separation?

John 21:2-3 (NIV)

2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but **THAT NIGHT THEY CAUGHT NOTHING**.

Jesus Had Told Them **To Wait** Until The Spirit Comes...

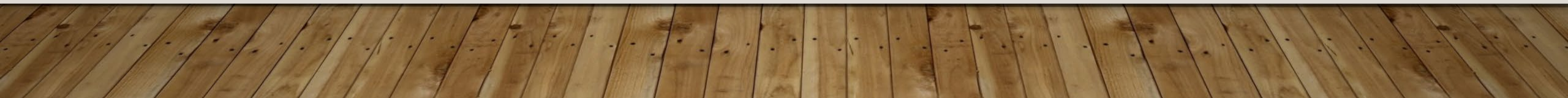
Impatience Caused Him To Go Back To What Was **Familiar/Comfort Zone**

He Soon Discovered.... Apart From Christ ~ He Could Do Nothing

John 21:15 (NIV)

15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, **do you truly love me more than these?**" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Love Would Not Allow Him To Separate Completely **Until** He Finished His Assignment



Abide In WHAT?

John 15:7, 9-10 (NIV)

7 If you remain in me and **my words remain in you**, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.

Abiding In His Word ~ Continual Trust In What God Says

To Abide In God's Word means to **BE CONSISTENTLY OBEDIENT TO HIS WORD**.

Many people desire to *live contrary to the Word* and *Reap The Rewards Promised In His Word...*

1 John 3:24 (NLT)

24 Those who obey God's commandments **remain in fellowship with him**, and he with them.

John 8:31-32 (NIV)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you **hold to my teaching**, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NLT)

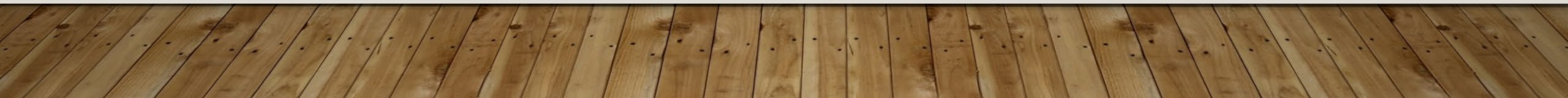
16 All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives.

It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.

17 **God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.**

Psalms 119:11 (NLT)

11 I have hidden your word in my heart, that **I might not sin against you.**



The Results Of Abiding

John 15:5 (NKJV)

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. *He who abides in Me,*
and I in him, **BEARS MUCH FRUIT**; for without Me you can do nothing.

IN ORDER TO HAVE A PRODUCTIVE/ABUNDANT LIFE... ABIDING IN CHRIST IS A PRIORITY

Jesus Promises That **When You Abide** In Him... You **Will Be** Productive
If we are not united to the vine so that Christ's life is flowing into us,
Then Nothing of any lasting value will come from us.

If You Are **NOT** Being Productive In Any Area of Your Life
CHECK YOUR CONNECTION!!!

Psalms 1:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord, *And in His law he meditates day and night.*

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, **That brings forth its fruit in its season,**
Whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper.**

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV)

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but *you shall meditate in it day and night,*
that *you may observe to do according to all that is written in it.* For then you will **make your way prosperous,**
and **then you will have good success.**

The Results Of Abiding

John 15:7, 16 (NIV)

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **you will ask what you desire**, and it shall be done for you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last.

THEN the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

You Can Ask For Anything

At salvation, **we enter into a union with God** that changes our legal status. We have **right standing** with God now.

We have a righteousness that comes by faith... **We now have communion with God.**

We have access to a **life-giving** and **joy-producing** communion with God through Christ...

The More Time We Spend With Him... **NOW WE HAVE RELATIONSHIP THAT ENABLES US TO MAKE REQUESTS**

Psalms 37:4 (NKJV)

4 **Delight yourself also in the Lord**, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

1 John 5:13-15 (NKJV)

13 These things I have written to you **who believe in the name of the Son of God**, that you may know that you have eternal life, and **that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.**

14 Now this is **the confidence that we have in Him**, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

15 And if **we know** that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions** that we have asked of Him.

Don't Stop Abiding

John 6:54-58 (NKJV)

54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.

56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood **abides in Me**, and **I in him**.

57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, **so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me**.

58 This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna and are dead.

He who eats this bread will live forever."

John 6:66-69 (NKJV)

66 From that time **many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more**.

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, **"DO YOU ALSO WANT TO GO AWAY?"**

68 But Simon Peter answered Him, **"Lord, to whom shall we go?** You have the words of eternal life.

69 Also we have **COME TO BELIEVE AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**"

WHY DID THEY LEAVE?

1 John 2:19 (ESV)

19 They went out from us, but **they were not of us**; for if they had been of us, **they would have continued with us**.

But they went out, that it **MIGHT BECOME PLAIN** that they all are not of us.

Meditation On Abiding

1 John 2:6 (ESV)

6 whoever says he abides in him **ought to walk in the same way** in which he walked.

1 John 2:24 (ESV)

24 Let what you **heard from the beginning abide in you**. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

1 John 2:26-27 (ESV)

26 I write these things to you about **those who are trying to deceive you**.

27 *But the anointing that you received from him abides in you*, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, **abide in him**.

1 John 3:6 (ESV)

6 **No one who abides in him keeps on sinning**; *no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him*.

Psalms 91:1 (NKJV)

1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High **Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty**.

James 4:8 (NKJV)

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **Cleanse your hands**, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded.

In Conclusion.....

Continue To Abide In JESUS CHRIST

Continue To Abide In His Word

Continue To Abide In His Love

If You Are Not Being Productive In Every Area Of Your Life... Check Your Connection

Since You Have Established A Relationship.... Ask For What You Desire

