



# ABIDE Weekly Devotions: Week Two

By Sam Miller

“Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”

## **John 15:3-4**

“Already you are clean”? I don’t know anything about you as the reader, but when I came across this I thought “I don’t feel very clean...” If you’re like me, it may be tough to read this and understand how we can already be clean when we don’t necessarily “feel it.” I think a lot of us have the tendency to only believe something if we feel it, or see it. We can only believe that we are doing well in life if we see the fruits of our labor. Then on top of that, we want to take credit for all of the things we are doing well, thinking that we are solely responsible for everything good in our lives. Jesus says that isn’t possible.

How can we abide in Christ if we are trying to do everything on our own accord? Jesus is revealing to us essential truths of the Christian faith in these verses by saying that unless we remain enveloped and immersed in Him, we cannot expect to attain everything that He has in store for us. The fruit is the reward. The virtues, traits, truths and praises that we possess are only accessed by remaining in the vine that is Christ. It can be tough to do this when we don't feel like it, or if we are so prideful that we don't allow Christ to abide in us.

God is teaching me through these passages that I am to abide in Him and remain in His presence, even when I don't feel Him there. He is alongside me and remains with me even when I have a hard time feeling it or believing it, and He wants me to remain grounded in who He is. The reward is fruit, and as Christians, we are to live a life that bears fruit so that others can experience this process of Christ abiding within them.

