



FIRST BAPTIST
— CHURCH —
FAIR OAKS RANCH

Day 25: Abide in Me

John 15:4–5 *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. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (ESV)*

DEVOTIONAL

We've established that the fear of the Lord makes us faithful, and that His return keeps us expectant. Now we come to the daily secret that makes both of those possible: abiding. The A of our journey is learning to live in the constant, moment-by-moment presence of the Lord. Dwelling in Him as a branch dwells in, or is continually connected to, the vine.

The key word is repeated over and over in these few verses. "Abide", which is the Greek word *meno*, means to remain, to stay, to make your home in. It's not a word for a long term visit; it's a word for residence. Jesus is not asking us to drop by and experience His presence on Sunday and then leave; He's calling us to live there; to make our home in Him and let Him make His home in us, all week, in all the ordinary hours of life.

He gives us the most vivid picture imaginable: a branch and a vine. A branch has no life of its own. Severed from the vine, it doesn't struggle bravely on for a while until it finally runs out of strength. It simply dies, because everything it needs flows from the vine. Jesus makes the application unmistakable: "apart from me you can do nothing." Not a little, or insignificant non-spiritual things; but nothing, period. Andrew Murray built an entire beloved classic, *Abide in Christ*, on this single truth: that the Christian life is not us working hard for Christ from a distance, but Christ's own life flowing through us as we remain connected in Him.

This is the very heart of *how* holiness actually happens, and it corrects a mistake we often make. We treat purity as something we manufacture by gritted effort, as though we were a branch trying to produce

grapes by sheer willpower while lying on the ground, severed from the main vine. It cannot be done. The fruit of a holy life: love, purity, self-control — is not something we squeeze out of ourselves. It is something the Vine produces through us, but only while we remain connected. Sin flourishes in disconnection; holiness grows in communion.

So the first and most important question of the holy life is not “How hard am I trying?” but “Am I abiding?” Stay connected to Christ today. To His Word, in prayer, in conscious dependence and meditation; and the fruit will come, as naturally as grapes on a well-joined branch.

TAKE AWAY

You cannot produce holiness by willpower any more than a cut branch can produce grapes. Stay connected to the Vine today, and let His life will bear the fruit through you.

PRAYER PROMPT

Ask the Lord to help you abide in Him throughout this ordinary day, drawing every bit of your life and strength from Him.