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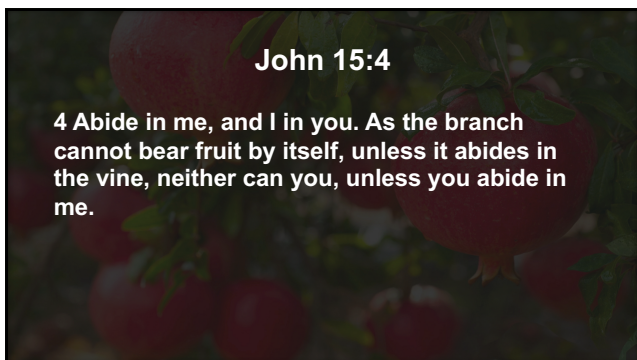
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**John 15:4**

**4** 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.

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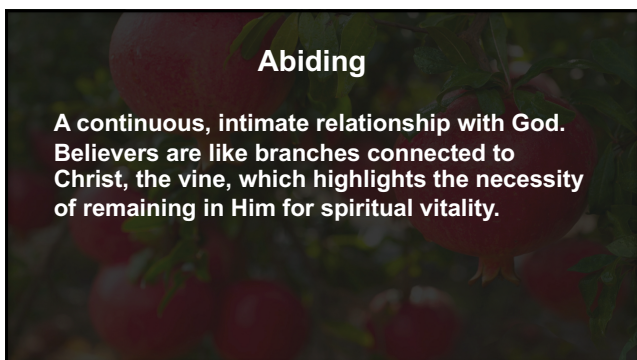
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**Abiding**

A continuous, intimate relationship with God. Believers are like branches connected to Christ, the vine, which highlights the necessity of remaining in Him for spiritual vitality.

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**Fruit of Spirit and Acts of The Flesh**

Acts of Flesh	Source	Fruit of Spirit
Sexual Immorality, Impurity, Debauchery, Orgies, Drunkenness	Body	Joy Self-Control
Idolatry, Witchcraft	Spirit	Faithfulness Goodness
Hatred, Fits of Rage	Soul	Love Gentleness
Selfish Ambition, Jealousy, Envy, Discord, Dissensions, Factions	Soul	Peace Patience Kindness

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**Sword of the Spirit**

The Word of God cuts through the fog of Satan's lies and shows me where true and lasting happiness is to be found. And so the Word helps me stop trusting in the potential of sin to make me happy, and instead entices me to trust in God's promise of joy

John Piper

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### Measure Your Delight

People do not awaken to how desperate their condition is until they measure their hearts by [their level of delight]...nothing shows the direction of the deep winds of the soul like the demand for radical, sin-destroying, Christ-exalting joy in God."

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### Luke 15:1-3

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable:

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### Why Does Jesus Receive Sinners?

Parable of the Lost sheep  
Parable of the Lost Coin  
Parable of the Prodigal Son

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**Luke 15:11-31**

11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.

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**Luke 15:11-31**

14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

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**Luke 15:11-31**

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."'"

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**Luke 15:11-31**

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. [treat me as one of your hired servants]'

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**Luke 15:11-31**

22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

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**Luke 15:11-31**

25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'

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**Luke 15:11-31**

28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!'

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**Luke 15:11-31**

31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

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**Parable of the Prodigal Son**

<b>Act 1</b>	
Younger Son	Tax Collectors and Sinners
Father	Heavenly Father God
<b>Act 2</b>	
Older Son	Scribes and Pharisees
Servants	Hired workers (non-sons)

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### Older Son Complaints

- 1. You are throwing a big party for your undeserving prodigal son
- 2. Yet You've never thrown me a little party
- 3. Subtext: There's no joy in my work

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### What Father Doesn't Say

#### Younger Son

- 1. He's a good boy
- 2. His actions aren't really all that bad
- 3. He's trying but a little misguided

#### Older Son

- 1. You were not so faithful
- 2. You didn't deserve a party

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### What the Father Did Say

'Son, you are always with me'	My presence is the best reward
'all that is mine is yours'	"You own everything. You have not because you ask not"
'It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'	We celebrate every win for the family

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### What Father Does Say

- 1. 'Son, you are always with me',
- 2. 'all that is mine is yours'
- 3. 'It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

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### Definition of Prodigal

According to dictionary.com, prodigal means:

- 1. wastefully or recklessly extravagant
- 2. giving or yielding profusely; lavish

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### Savor Comes Before Serving

We exist to savor the God we have seen. And that precedes all work and labor and toil and service. If wonder doesn't precede work, work will become wearisome. But God does not mean to weary his people: the joy of the Lord is your strength. Savoring comes before serving.

- John Piper

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### Romans 8:18

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

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### Hope Is a Fountain of Joy

Hope is a fountain of our Joy, Joy sustains our Endurance and the Lord's endurance fills us with His Love to carry us through every trial and tribulation. There are two things that awaken and feed our Hope:

first is the Word of God and second is Prayer.

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### Prayer Feeds Hope

How does prayer fit in? It is God's appointed means (along with the word of God) to awaken and sustain hope. And since hope is the key to joy in tribulation, and joy is the key to endurance, and endurance is the key to love—prayer, as the key to hope, is at the bottom of everything in the Christian life.

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### Casting Care Prayer

Lord, I am struggling with [ *fear, anger, discouragement, grief* ] over the [ *circumstance* ] and I choose to cast this care on you. I ask you to save me from it and trust you to carry this burden for me. Help me not to pick this burden up again. In Jesus name, amen!

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### Lose the Joy

When we sin, we do not lose our salvation but we may lose the joy of our salvation

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### Wellsprings of Joy

The Holy Spirit bears the fruit of joy when we set our minds upon things above and not on things of the earth

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**John 15:4**

**4 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.**

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