

Lord, I Want to Abide in You

Key Scripture

" Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. "
John 15:4-5 (KJV)

Portion for the Journey

In the Old Testament times, the law of hospitality played a major role in the culture of the Middle East. The land was filled with marauders, bandits and robbers who would readily kill someone for the money in their purse. As a stranger in the land, you could hope to find safety and protection in the dwellings of chieftains by coming under the shelter of their tent and appealing to their role as host. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for "abide" was used primarily in this context, placing the one who is 'abiding' in the role of a guest, a traveler or sojourner who is invited to stay in the home of a local leader as a guest. Even though you are not a blood relative you could expect to be treated with great respect and the host would lay down his very life to protect you. Several verses in the Old Testament speak of abiding in the tabernacle of the LORD or His Secret Place. Each verse is filled with conditions that must be met in order to enter this abiding place. (Ps. 15:1, Ps. 61:7 and Ps. 91.)

In the New Testament, the meaning of the word "abide" that Jesus uses in His call to abide in Him carries a much different connotation. The emphasis is upon the permanency of the dwelling place. 3306 meno (men'-o); a primary verb; to remain, to continue, to dwell, to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): KJV-- abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), X thine own. Zohiastes sheds a great deal of light on this word, "of the relation in which one person or thing stands with another, chiefly, to remain in or with someone, united with him, one in heart, mind and will. e.g. to remain steadfast, persevering in it, to continue in the faith. The Greek word 'meno' means to never depart, being rooted and knit together, to remain and continue to live in the abiding place.

Jesus is to be our abiding place. He is to be our dwelling place. As we abide in Him and His Word, we become cleaved together in a state of oneness. He becomes our dwelling place and we become His dwelling place. This abiding place is not just a dwelling place, in which we remain, it is a place of intimate friendship and fellowship with our LORD Jesus.

He died for us, so that we could have this blessed unity and oneness. Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, 'Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, *it abideth alone*: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. ... If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.'" John 12:24, 26 (KJV)

In his book, "Abide in Christ," Andrew Murray describes the preciousness of this call Jesus has made to "Abide in Me." He describes abiding in Jesus, saying, "He prepared an abiding dwelling with Himself, where your whole life and every minute of it might be spent, where the work of your daily life might be done, and where all the while you might be enjoying unbroken communion with Himself...The intercourse is not only to be unbroken, it is to be intimate and complete. He opened His heart, to welcome you there; He opened up all His divine fullness of life and love, and offered to take you up into its fellowship, to make you wholly one with Himself. There was a depth of meaning you cannot yet realize in His words: "Abide in Me."¹

The promises for those who abide in Him contain the very keys to the kingdom of Heaven! Jesus said if you believe in Me, even greater works will you do. John 14:12 He said that if we abide in Him and His Words abide in us, whatever we ask of Him in His name will be done for us. Isn't this everything we wanted when we answered Jesus call to "Come" to Him? Why do we so rarely experience the power and the life of the LORD as we saw it manifest in men like Paul or David, Moses or Abraham? These promises of God do us little good unless we know how to actually put them into practice. Careful examination of the Word will show us how we can abide in Him. He would not offer us His promises unless He also provides a way to achieve them.

Digging Deeper in the Word:

1. If we desire intimate friendship with God, we need to abide in Him. Jesus gives us the key to abiding, along with wonderful promises in John 14 and 15. Today we will study this passage to see the simple and clear means by which we can walk in this truth! As you read, mark all references to "abiding" or "dwelling" or "living in". The word "abide" or "dwell" (Strong's #3306 "meno") is used in this passage eleven times. (see 14:10,17,25; 15:4,5,6,7,9,10,10, and 16 (translated remaineth). Write down everything you learn about abiding in Jesus. If anyone loves Jesus, how will he feel toward the Word? Is there any way that we can abide in the Father except through Jesus Christ? Why do you think most verses related to abiding were in the books written by John?

2. Take a piece of paper and fold it into 3 columns. Title the first column "Abiding" write notes regarding who is abiding and where. Title the second column "conditions," and write down the things that Jesus said will mark or be required of us if we are abiding in Him. In the 3rd column, write down the "promises" He makes for those who abide in Him. Look up each of the verses and make notes regarding what you learn about how we abide in Him.

1 John 3:24
1 John 2:24
John 15:4
2 John 1:9
John 14:16

John 4:13
1 John 3:17
John 15:7, 16
Eph. 3:17

1 John 2:27, 28
John 8:31-32
John 15:9,10
1 Cor. 7:24

¹ "Abide in Christ" by Andrew Murray. Christian Literature Crusade. 1968 p.12

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3. **What will happen if we do not abide in Him?** Look up John 15:6. The word “withered” provides much insight. Withered: 3583 xeraino (xay-rah'-ee-no); from 3584; to desiccate (to dry completely, term used in preserving food in which ALL water is removed); by implication to shrivel, to mature: KJV-- dry up, pine away, be ripe, wither (away).3584 xeros (xay-ros'); from the base of 3582 (through the idea of scorching); arid; by implication shrunken, earth (as opposed to water): KJV-- dry land, withered. Contrast this with the Living Water that Jesus wants to pour out upon our Spirits as we abide in Him!! (See also Rom. 11:22; Gal. 3:10; 2 John 1:9)

What the Lord is speaking to your heart?

Your heart response to the Lord?