




Abiding in Christ

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love." (John 15:9)



What does it mean to abide in Christ?/What does this abiding looks like in a believer?

- To “abide” is to live, continue, or remain; so, to abide in Christ is to live in Him or remain in Him.
- An abider dwells in the knowledge that they can do nothing without Christ.(John 15:5)
- Abiding in Christ, we will not be content with hearing about Him once or twice a week, we would desire to be occupied with Him continually, and we would wish to feed(read His Word) upon Him, and there will be a desire to see Him if that was possible.
- There will be a deep desire to seek Him and His company, and you shall also learn that He is not here. Christ has gone from the world. He is apart from all this world has to offer and if He is more to you than all it has to offer, you shall find the way you seek, for He does not withhold Himself from those who seek Him; He delights to manifest Himself to those who appreciate His love.
- Abiding will give the knowledge of His love and you will grow in an uninterrupted dependence on Him ; you will come to respond to His love, and in that you will have the help of the Holy Ghost.



Results of Abiding



1. **Our lives would bear fruit by expressing something of the lovely character of Christ.** (*"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")* John 15:4
- First, we learn that abiding in Christ we shall bring forth fruit.
 - We are told that unless we abide in Christ we cannot bring forth fruit.
 - Then we are told that if we abide in Christ, and He in us, we shall bring forth much fruit.
 - From another Scripture we learn that the fruit of the Spirit is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, fidelity, meekness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23). The fruit of the Spirit are the lovely qualities, a description of the beautiful character of Christ. We can also say that the fruit is the reproduction of Lord's own character in the lives of believers.
 - The fruit is not service or the application of gift. Though not everyone possesses all gifts, it is open to all, young and old alike. We all can express something of the loveliness of Christ in our lives. When we express Christ it goes up as fruit to the Father, and goes out as testimony to the world. This, then, is the great object for which we are left in this dark world, to shine as lights by exhibiting something of the beautiful character of Christ. This will only be possible as we abide in Christ. We shall never exhibit the character of Christ by simply trying to be like Christ. If, however, we seek His Company, and come under His influence, by abiding in Him, we shall be changed into His image from glory to glory.
 - We do not dwell in Christ that there may be fruit, but fruit is produced because we dwell in Christ.



2. Abiding in Christ our prayers will have an answer(If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.)John 15:7

- Every man is formed by the company that he keeps: the character of the one in whose company we walk, is the character we shall reflect. Our thoughts, our words and our attitude reflect the one are most influenced by.
- If we are under the blessed influence of Christ's presence, with His words dwelling in our hearts, our thoughts would be formed by His thoughts and our prayers would match or will be suited to His mind. Thus praying, according to His mind and heart we should have an answer to our prayers.
- Prayer of one abiding is always in the spirit of dependence.



3. Our walk would show something of the beauty of His walk. ("He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.") *1 John 2:6*

- How did Christ walk? Of Him we read, "Christ pleased not Himself." Speaking of the Father, the Lord Himself could say, "I do always those things that please Him". This is the perfect pattern for the believer's walk, for the Apostle Paul can say, we "ought to walk and please God" (*1 Thess. 4:1*). Again, the same Apostle exhorts believers to "walk in love, as Christ also has loved us" (*Eph. 5:2*).
- Christ ever set aside all thoughts of self, in order to serve others in love.
- We may know the doctrines of Christianity; we may hold the great essential truths of our faith, but, no amount of knowledge or intelligence will make your soul work the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ." To walk like Him, we must be in His company, and walk with Him.



4. Our ways would be consistent with the coming glory of Christ. (*"And now, children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have boldness, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."*) 1 John 2:28

- abiding in Christ our walk will be such that we shall not be ashamed before Christ at His coming.
- Oftentimes there is much in our walk, and ways, and speech, and manners, that mirrors the world around us, and we may not find anything wrong with it. If, however, we were to judge ourselves, and our words, and ways, in the light of the coming glory of the appearing of Christ, will we be content and find nothing to condemn, and confess with shame, as far short of the standard of glory.
- Only as we abide in Christ, under the influence of His presence, and so walk in self-judgment, shall we be preserved from all that which would cause shame in the day of glory.



5. Our walk would be preserved from the lawlessness of the flesh ("Whosoever abides in Him sins not.") 1 john 3:6

- "sin is lawlessness".
- Sin is doing one's own will without thinking about God or man.
- Wherever there is lawlessness, decay will follow, whether it be in the world or among the people of God. As believers we are ever in danger of being affected by the spirit of the world around us.
- If, in a school, each pupil was allowed to do his own will the school would inevitably break up. If each member of a family followed his own will the family would be wrecked; and if each individual of a company of believers pursues his own will, disruption must follow. The spirit of lawlessness, in whatever sphere it shows itself, will lead to disintegration, and more the number and intent to pursue one's own will, the greater the harm it will cause.
- How then are we to escape the evil principle of lawlessness, or self-will? Only by abiding in Christ; for the Apostle says, 'Whosoever abides in Him sins not.' Only as we are held under the influence of the One who could say, "I come ... not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me," shall we escape the self-will that is the very essence of sin.



How good, then, to heed the Lord's word, "Abide in Me ... for without Me ye can do nothing." We may be gifted and have all knowledge, and zeal, we may have long experience, but it still remains true that without Christ we can do nothing.

Gift, knowledge, and zeal, are not power. All these things will not enable us to overcome the flesh, to refuse the world, or escape the snares of the devil. We may have all these things but yet be without Christ. Without him we may stumble at the smallest trial and fall into the greatest evils.

