Abiding in the Vine

**1—ABIDING IN JESUS**

**SONG: JESUS, TO BE WITH YOU**

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

I’m coming to be with You

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

‘Cause true life is only in You

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

Without You there’s nothing I can do

So every day I’ll make my way

To be with You, to be with You

**John 15:1–11 (NKJV)** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. **5** “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. **6** If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. **7** If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8** By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. **9** “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **10** If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. **11** “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

**THESE ARE THE TOPICS I PLAN TO LEAD YOU TO LEARN ABOUT AND DO:**

1. Abiding in Jesus
2. Abiding in the Word
3. Abiding in Prayer
4. Staying Full of the Spirit
5. Being Led by the Spirit

**TODAY WE’RE TALKING ABOUT “1—ABIDING IN JESUS”**

Let’s focus on verses 1 and 5.

**VERSE 1:**  “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

**VERSE 5:** “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.

**WE’LL TALK ABOUT THE WORD OF GOD, PRAYER, AND OBEDIENCE... BUT NOTICE... JESUS FIRST CALLS US TO HIMSELF... A PERSON... NOT AN ACTIVITY.**

**IF YOUR DAILY SPIRITUAL LIFE IS BASED ON ACTIVITIES, YOU HAVE A RELIGION.**

**IF YOUR DAILY SPIRITUAL LIFE IS BASED ON A PERSON, YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP.**

**JESUS WANTS US TO PURSUE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM JUST AS HE PURSUED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS FATHER.**

**WHEN THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS ASKED HIM HOW TO PRAY, THE FIRST THING JESUS SAID—IN LUKE 11:2 WAS:**

**Luke 11:2 (NKJV)** “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven.”

**JESUS WOULD SPEND TIME WITH HIS FATHER EVERY DAY.**

**Mark 1:35 (NKJV)** Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

**ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, HE PRAYED ALL NIGHT**

**Luke 6:12 (NKJV)** Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

**WE NEED TO HAVE A CONNECTION WITH JESUS—PERSONALLY—EVERY DAY.**

**LOOK AGAIN AT VERSE 5:** “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.

**THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT BELIEVERS ARE MISSING TODAY... IS DAILY CONNECTION WITH JESUS.**

**LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAID TO BELIEVERS IN...**

**Revelation 3:20–22 (NKJV)** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. **21** To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. **22** “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”

**EX – WHAT I DO EVERY DAY TO CONNECT—PERSONALLY—WITH FATHER GOD AND JESUS... 1) AS SOON AS I WAKE UP OR GET OUT OF BED... 2) WHEN I APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD... 3) WHEN I TAKE TIME TO PRAY IN THE MORNING... 4) AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETINGS... 5) WHEN I PRAY THROUGHOUT THE DAY FOR WISDOM OR PEOPLE... AND 6) WHEN I LIE IN BED AT NIGHT BEFORE I GO TO SLEEP.**

**FOR ANY RELATIONSHIP TO BE MEANINGFUL, THERE MUST BE INTENTIONALITY.**

**EX – I’M NOT THE PERFECT HUSBAND, BUT I DO TRY TO BE VERY INTENTIONAL WITH KIMBERLY. I TELL HER THAT I LOVE HER, USUALLY MULTIPLE TIMES A DAY. WE LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO BE TOGETHER, AND WE LISTEN TO EACH OTHER AND ALSO SHARE WHAT’S ON OUR HEARTS. I LET HER KNOW REGULARLY... SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK HOW HAPPY I AM TO BE HER HUSBAND... AND I THANK HER FOR MARRYING ME.**

**IT IS THESE KINDS OF CONVERSATIONS THAT MAKE SERVING JESUS A RELATIONSHIP AND NOT A RELIGION.**

**LISTEN TO HOW PERSONAL JESUS’ MESSAGE IS IN PROVERBS 8:34–36:**

**Proverbs 8:34–36 (NKJV)** Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. **35** For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the Lord; **36** But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death.”

**EX – IF A BOSS OF A SOLAR COMPANY HIRES A NEW EMPLOYEE TO GO DOOR TO DOOR TO SELL SOLAR SYSTEMS, THE NEW SALESPERSON DOESN’T NEED TO TAKE EVERY REJECTION PERSONALLY... BECAUSE IT HAS AN AGREEMENT WITH THE BOSS TO STILL GET PAID, EVEN IF THEY WERE REJECTED ALL DAY.**

**EX – A FEW YEARS AGO, KIMBERLY HAD TO MAKE A DIFFICULT DECISION TO STOP PLAYING AN ESTEEMED ROLE AT A MINISTRY... SHE PRAYED ABOUT IT... TALKED WITH ME ABOUT IT... AND WE WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT SHE SHOULD STEP DOWN AND SPEND HER TIME FOCUSING ON THINGS GOD WAS CALLING HER TO... SO WHEN PEOPLE EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT OR DISPLEASURE WITH HER DECISION, SHE WAS NOT DEVASTATED WITH THEIR DISAGREEMENT... BECAUSE SHE HAD RELATIONSHIP – BOTH WITH THE LORD AND WITH ME – AND THAT GAVE HER THE STABILITY SHE NEEDED TO MAKE THE TOUGH DECISIONS WITHOUT FEAR.**

**ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR VERSES IN THE BIBLE... IT’S ALMOST ALWAYS IN THE TOP THREE VERSES PEOPLE LOOK UP, IS JEREMIAH 29:11... I’D LIKE TO READ IT, BUT I’D LIKE TO READ TWO AND A HALF MORE VERSES SO YOU SEE WHAT GOD IS ASKING US TO DO... NOTICE HOW PERSONAL GOD IS IN THIS PASSAGE...**

**Jeremiah 29:11–14 (NKJV)** For **I** know the thoughts that **I** think toward **YOU**, says **the Lord**, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give **YOU** a future and a hope. **12** Then **YOU** will call upon **ME** and go and pray to **ME**, and **I** will listen to **YOU**. **13** And **YOU** will seek **ME** and find **ME**, when **YOU** search for **ME** with all **YOUR** heart. **14** **I** will be found by **YOU**, says **the Lord**, and **I** will bring **YOU** back from **YOUR** captivity.

**DO YOU HEAR THAT? THIS IS WHAT JESUS IS SAYING TO US PERSONALLY TODAY... HE’S ASKING US TO CALL UPON HIM... TO SEEK HIM... TO CALL UPON HIM... AND IN RETURN... HE PROMISES TO LISTEN TO US... TO BE FOUND BY HIM... AND TO DELIVER US FROM WHATEVER ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES WE’RE IN.**

**THERE IS A DEEP AND DEADLY DECEPTION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST... THAT WE CAN SIMPLY DO CHRISTIAN ACTIVITIES AND STILL ACCOMPLISH OUR CALLING... MINISTER TO PEOPLE... GET OUR PRAYERS ANSWERED... OR EVEN GO TO HEAVEN.**

**BUT JESUS DISPELLS THAT DECEPTION... HE SAYS...**

**VERSE 5: “Without Me you can do nothing.”**

**WE EXIST BECAUSE JESUS CREATED US**

**John 1:1–3 (NKJV)** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

**OUR UNIVERSE—AND WE—ARE HELD TOGETHER BY JESUS’ WORD**

**Hebrews 1:1–3 (NKJV)** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; **3** who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

**WE ONLY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH JESUS**

**1 John 5:11–12 (NKJV)** And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

**WE CAN DO ALL THINGS... BECAUSE JESUS STRENGTHENS US**

**Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**WE MUST LEARN TO HAVE RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS—PERSONALLY.**

**EX – WHEN MY LIFE WAS CHANGED 41 YEARS AGO THIS YEAR... IT WAS CHANGED BECAUSE I CALLED OUT TO JESUS... AND HE—PERSONALLY—MET ME... SPOKE TO ME... TAUGHT ME... AND CHANGED ME. IT WAS NOT A FORMULA OR A RELIGIOUS ROUTINE. ANYTHING I’VE BEEN ABLE TO DO IN MY LIFE OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE IS BECAUSE OF JESUS.**

**LET’S TAKE TIME TO PRACTICE CONNECTING WITH HIM RIGHT NOW.**

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