

CHRIST'S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

The Gospel of John: The Deity and Teaching of Jesus Christ

"Why Everything in the Christian Life Begins With Abiding"

John 15:5-11 NKJV

I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him bears much fruit, for [otherwise] apart from Me [that is, cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing. [6] If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown out like a [broken off] branch, and withers and dies; and they gather such branches and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. [7] If you remain in Me and My words remain in you [that is, if we are vitally united and My message lives in your heart], ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. [8] My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My [true] disciples. [9] I have loved you just as the Father has loved Me; remain in My love [and do not doubt My love for you]. [10] If you keep My commandments and obey My teaching, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. [11] I have told you these things so that My joy and delight may be in you, and that your joy may be made full and complete and overflowing.

Main Points

1. _____ and _____ come only from union with Christ. (vv.5-8)
2. Abiding is lived out through _____ - _____ obedience. (vv.9-10)
3. _____ is the outcome of abiding, not the goal of striving. (v.11)

Instruction (2 Tim 3:16): What is God telling me?

Inspiration (Romans 8:16): How is the Holy Spirit moving me?

Imitator of Christ (Ephesians 5:1): How will I serve God by imitating Jesus?

My prayer this week:

Discussion Questions:

1. What do Jesus' words, "*Without Me you can do nothing*" (v.5), reveal about our dependence on Him?
2. When Jesus speaks of bearing fruit, what clues in the passage help us understand whether He means outward actions, results, or inner transformation?
3. Looking at verses 5–11, how does the text itself show us the dangers of both self-reliance and passivity?
4. What evidence from my own life shows where I tend to rely on my own strength instead of Jesus?
5. If someone examined the "fruit" in my life, what would they see as the source of my joy—and what current evidence points to Christ's work in me?

BIBLE REFERENCES

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Philippians 1:10-11 AMP so that you may learn to recognize and treasure what is excellent [identifying the best, and distinguishing moral differences], and that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ [actually living lives that lead others away from sin]; [11] filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God [so that His glory may be both revealed and recognized].

Psalm 127:1-2 AMP Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. [2] It is vain for you to rise early, To retire late, To eat the bread of anxious labors—For He gives [blessings] to His beloved even in his sleep.

Colossians 2:6-7 AMP Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in [union with] Him [reflecting His character in the things you do and say—living lives that lead others away from sin], [7] having been deeply rooted [in Him] and now being continually built up in Him and [becoming increasingly more] established in your faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing in it with gratitude.

Galatians 2:20 AMP I have been crucified with Christ [that is, in Him I have shared His crucifixion]; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body I live by faith [by adhering to, relying on, and completely trusting] in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Matthew 7:19-22 AMP Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. [20] Therefore, by their fruit you will recognize them [as false prophets]. [21] "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. [22] Many will say to Me on that day [when I judge them], 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, and driven out demons in Your name, and done many miracles in Your name?' [23] And then I will declare to them publicly, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME [you are banished from My presence], YOU WHO ACT WICKEDLY [disregarding My commands].'

1 John 2:19 AMP They went out from us [seeming at first to be Christians], but they were not really of us [because they were not truly born again and spiritually transformed]; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out [teaching false doctrine], so that it would be clearly shown that none of them are of us.

Psalm 37:4-5 AMP Delight yourself in the LORD, And He will give you the desires and petitions of your heart. [5] Commit your way to the LORD; Trust in Him also and He will do it.

James 2:17 AMP So too, faith, if it does not have works [to back it up], is by itself dead [inoperative and ineffective].