

ABIDE IN HIM ALWAYS

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When I began my research and study in preparation for this writing it came to me quickly that this study was going to be rewarding. My heart readily let me know that it would be a valuable learning effort of joy.

I'm not going to mince any more words; I'm going to tell you straight-out...I implore you dear one to study with me, and I guarantee you it will be rewarding to you also. I was motivated in my effort of this study writing, and 'O, I pray that you will be motivated also, and that we together will have, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee! Grant It Jesus Is My Plea." You know..."When We Walk With The Lord, In The Light of His Word; What A Glory He Sheds On Our Way." You will receive an extra blessing if you will get out your songbook and read (or sing) the words of those two songs. Go ahead and read or sing it out-loud! O', God bless! I love you!

There is a song that we sing which gives attention to "Abide." I'm excited about this study. I wish I had done this study writing a long time ago. Truth is known, I am excited about all my studies, and I can't get enough.

Defining words and some commentary will be in order, but I can assure you that the scripture selected to be cited are great words and great and needed lessons are contained in them. They are very enjoyable to read aloud, slowly and methodically. Even better, after you read the scriptures, aloud, read them to a friend or family member. That's a good way to study with someone.

"Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides" (Lit. Stands) (Psalms 119:89, 90). God's Word is one of the great certainties of life. His care for the word is evidence of His faithfulness. Endurance is to continue in existence. Our realization of His care for His Word is that He loved us so much He gave (provided) His Word to and for us, and we are blessed to live by and abide in it.

God's word is settled, (Lit. stands firm). These cited scriptures explain the faithfulness, firmness, and endurance of God. God is eternal and we know that. Therefore His word is forever valid. It speaks to all people and for all time. Our obligation is to know and realize that our life here on earth, must be guided and lived by, abiding in His word.

My memory was refreshed again by the use of the attribute "abide." Note these 15 words, *"And now "abide" faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love"* (1 Corinthians 13:13). But go ahead and read all of Chapter 13 of 1st. Corinthians.

Chapter 13, of 1st Corinthians, is addressing The More Excellent Way of Love. The chapter ends with the admonishment of the greatness to abide in faith, hope and love. Eventually faith will become sight (2 Corinthians 5:7), hope will be fulfilled, however, love, the greatest of all, will remain unchanged. LOVE is God's purpose for His people—always.

Jesus said, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another"* (John 13:34). Now, if that isn't love then the oceans are dry! Abiding love, that is true love. My love for others, as is your love for others, must resemble Christ's love for us.

"...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever because 'All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the LORD endureth forever' " (1 Peter 1:23-25). God is pure; God is love; God abides forever; God endures forever.

God has provided for man that he can, through the Word, (which is the Person of Jesus Christ, but, is also the gospel which is preached about Him) live, endure, and abide forever. Abiding continues in a permanent state through God's word. And it is said, *"The world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever"* (1 John 2:17).

Chapter 15 of The Book of John explains that Christ is the True Vine and our need, as branches, is to abide in the True Vine and He (Christ) details why we must abide in Him. Note the following Omniscient points made in John 15:4-7: fruit-bearing; unless; nothing; cast out; withered; throw; fire; burned; desired; ask; shall; and done. All of them have great significance to the branches, Vinedresser, and abiding in the "True Vine."

Now read with me the below scripture:

"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. "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. 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. 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 15:4-7). [To ask within God's will is to be one of Christ's disciples - this is a principle taught in Luke 22.42. He who abides in Christ and keeps His word does not ask outside the will of God).

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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" (John 15:9, 10). (These are the words of Jesus Christ. They are the strongest of words of love and abiding. They are His commandments. We must obey and abide therein.

Abiding—continuing in a permanent state is continuing in Christ's doctrine. *"These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. Make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He (Christ) is righteous. Many deceivers have gone out into the world, (they are) those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that you do not lose those things you worked for, but that you may receive a full reward. Whoever transgresses, (goes ahead), and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house neither bid him God's speed for he that bids him God's speed shares in his evil deeds"* (1 John 2:26; 1 John 3:7-13). (We are to abide—always, in the doctrine of Christ. To appear to support false teachers, deceivers, or antichrist is to share in their evil deeds.

Continuing the thought or principle of abiding in Christ and also abiding in the brethren, note with me what is recorded in 1st and 2nd John. *"...these things I write to you, so that you may not sin, and if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. And by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments"* (1 John 2:1, 3).

Now listen up as you read aloud the next verse. *"He who says, 'I know Him, and does not keep His commandments;' (all of them and abide), is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His Word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked"* (1 John 2:4-5). My 'O My! What a lesson of need for one's life. One's life is imbedded in those five scriptures.

Let's "read-talk", that is to read aloud, about some of the applications of the above scriptures to our lives. Why? Because this study is on or about (Abide – Abiding), permit me to ask of you, "How many principles of abide can be recognized in those five scriptures?"

Now read again the scriptures and look for these abiding features that I have listed, and I am willing to say there are more:

1. The *abiding love* of our Heavenly Father.
2. The *abiding love* of Jesus Christ our Savior.
3. The *abiding* propitiation in Christ for the sins of the members of His body
4. The need for us to know and *abide* in the keeping of His Commandments, all of them, (cf. James 2:10).
5. The need to *abide* in the truth, which, if we are a liar the truth is not in us, and we won't get to Heaven, (See also Rev. 21:8).
6. *Abiding* in Him is to walk just as He walked. *Abiding* in walking just as He walked is to strive continually to be more and more like Christ.

There are different ways, I suppose, to end or complete a study before you pray about it again. But to me, my heart is so full of humility, joy, and desire. I just want to let it pour out in closing this lesson and ask you to evaluate what I have chosen for my thankful heart to say.

This study is closed with the following comments: "The scriptures and commentary that have been set forth in this study has been of great benefit to me. The wonderful scriptures and principles that we studied together were motivating to my conscience. It is my prayer that you have read and studied this lesson and that you will accept all truth herein and that it will be a conscience server to you also. Accepting truth and acting responsibly is truly a great blessing.

"The well-trained conscience is equal to the knowledge, abiding faith, and love to which we expose or submit to our mind. With confidence I say that you studied this lesson with faith and love, and that it will be of great benefit to you.

"With confidence I also say, that you desire to be blessed and to gain more knowledge. True abiding biblical knowledge is associated with responsibilities. In faith and love please seek and search diligently for responsible knowledge. It is found in the study of God's word, His truth. Please accept it as your duty and thus you become obligated. Your duty must be associated with and become an active part of your abiding actively and faithfully in the Lord's Church until death. That is His law and commandment.

"The church that I am speaking of is [the church you read about in the Bible. The cost was the blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The church is His Body, His Kingdom, which is His Church. Please be an obedient dedicated part of the church of the Bible. You cannot pass through Heaven's gate if you are not in Christ's' Body, His Church. It surely is the Church, the only Church that you read about in the Bible. That is the truth. Note more of what is said in the Bible about truth and the church."

We Have an Anchor

“Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, when the clouds unfold their wings of strife?
When the strong tides lift, and the cables strain, will your anchor drift or firm remain?”

“It is safely moored, ‘twill the storm withstand, for ‘tis well secured by the Savior’s hand;
And the cables passed from His heart to mine, can defy the blast, through strength
divine.

“It will firmly hold in the straits of fear; when the breakers have told the reef is near;
‘Tho the tempest rage and the wild winds blow, not an angry wave shall our bark o’er-
flow.

“When our eyes behold through the gathering night; the city of gold our harbor bright;
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore; with the storms all past forever more.

“We have an anchor that keeps the soul. Steadfast and sure while the billows roll.
Fastened to the Rock, which cannot move, Grounded firm and deep in the Savior’s
love.”

Having studied the lesson--thoughts contained herein, does the song, “We Have an
Anchor,” have more meaning to you now? It has more meaning to me after being blessed by
this study. I confess again, “This study has been a wonderful blessing to me.” I thank you for
having studied with me. Let us abide together as true children of God!

Let us abide together in HIM...always! I solicit your thoughts, verbal or written. God
bless you now! I love you, your servant in the Lord!

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blessed.