

ABIDING IN CHRIST **(John 15:4)**

According to Jesus own words the only way believers can glorify God The Father through fruitful, spiritual lives is by *abiding* in Christ. Through these few verses in John we learn that Jesus is the vine, believers are the branches, and The Father is the husbandman. The fruit we are called to bear is two fold: (1) **Mat. 7:17** tells of fruit generated from transformed lives, (2) **Gal. 5:22-23** tells of the characteristics that should be the outward fruit that comes from the inward Holy Spirit.

TO ABIDE

To abide in Christ is to : remain, to rest, continue, depend upon, to stay, and to wait for Christ. A little known fact about abiding is that it does not happen over night. Much like faith, to abide is a spiritual experience that we grow into with time. It is not that some believers are abiding in Christ and some are not. If we are in Christ we are forever connected to Him and thereby we are all able to abide in Him.

- **Allow Christ to live in you -Galatians 2:20; John 15:5** Paul understood that in order to bear much fruit we must be totally dependent on Christ to live an abiding life in Christ.
- **Become fruitful – II Peter 1:4-8** Peter helps the believers to understand how to be Spiritually fruitful. Are these virtues helping us grow to the point of abiding in Christ?
- **Know the word of God – Luke 8:15; II Timothy 2:15** If we are to abide in Christ we must learn to read, study and love the word of God. We cannot bear any fruit without knowing how we are to live and how we are to bear fruit that is pleasing to God.
- **Help and love others – I John 2:10-11; Galatians 6:10** If we ever reach the maturity level of abiding in Christ we must go through the doors of love and compassion for the brethren.
- **Make Jesus our refuge – Psalm 91:1-2; Matthew 11:28-30** In order to realize what it truly means to abide in Christ we must bring all our burdens and fears to Him in faith believing.
- **Turn away from the world – I John 2:15-17** It is no secret that God would have every believer hate sin as He does. Unfortunately most believers are caught up in the world.
- **Stay faithful in chastening – John 15:2; Hebrews 12:5-6** Those believers that are growing toward maturity in abiding in Christ will be chastened and purged. Many fall back during the time of purging and thus never achieve full maturity in Christ.

REASONS TO ABIDE

- **The prayer promise – John 15:7** We often wonder why we do not get prayers answered. Look closely and see that all important little word *if*. Only those who abide in Him get to claim this promise of answered prayer.
- **The fullness of joy promise – John 15:11** Notice that the phrase “these things...” refer to the previous context of abiding in Christ. The promise of fullness of joy is for those people.
- **The promise of reward – Matthew 25:14-23** Those faithful believers who reach a maturity level will undoubtedly have spiritual fruit at the Judgment Seat and receive rewards.
- **To be confident at His return – I John 2:28** What a sad and embarrassing day it will be for many believers when Jesus calls us home. Most believers have been too busy with self, the family, toys, pleasures and the world system and have nothing to offer Jesus at the Judgment Seat. Those who have grown up into abiding in Christ can have confidence in Him at that day.