

# *Unbroken Fellowship*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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## INTRODUCTION

Those who desire to serve God may be very active; yet, that activity may be nothing more than busy-ness—wheels spinning without any lasting fruit. In Luke 10:38-42, Martha was busy with much serving, and all she reaped was aggravation. Her sister Mary, on the other hand, simply sat and received at the feet of Jesus. Mary chose the good part.

Even a Christian who understands the Finished Work may have such a full schedule that when he hears that he ought to simply abide, his first thought is to cut back the schedule and to become less active. The truth is that when a Christian learns to abide in perfect fellowship with Christ, he is finally able to produce fruit.

So much time and energy can be spent trying to accomplish a work when Christ is not in it. This booklet addresses the importance of abiding in Christ in intimate, unbroken fellowship, to reap a harvest of fruit that remains.

## *Chapter One*

# ABIDE IN THE GENUINE VINE

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

“Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

“Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:1-4).

In John 15, Jesus was heading toward Calvary. In the thirteenth chapter, after eating the Passover supper, He knelt down and washed His disciples’ feet. In the fourteenth chapter, He sat at the table and gathered them close to tell them about things that would soon take place. But then Jesus stood up, signaling that some-

thing very important was about to be revealed. This is what He said:

“I am the *true* vine.”

The Greek word for “true” means “genuine.” So in John 15:1-17, the Lord was saying, “I am the *genuine* Vine.” Also, He spoke of fruit that comes from abiding in the vine. Eight times this passage mentions “fruit” and eight times a form of the word “abide.” Abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ produces much fruit.

### *The Power of Unbroken Fellowship*

To abide in the genuine Vine is to have unbroken fellowship, intimate communion, and an inseparable relationship with God. Think of that! Jesus Christ—the Creator, Savior, and Lord of the Universe—wants to have unbroken fellowship with us. But the moment we stop abiding, the intimacy of that relationship stops and our fellowship is broken.

It is difficult for many Christians to realize the power we derive from having unbroken fellowship. Not a single sin can prevail in our lives when we abide. We abide in Him, He abides in us, His words abide in us, and according to John 15:3, we are made clean by those words.

Of this relationship that is becoming unbroke-

ken fellowship with Him, Jesus said, “Abide in me. Continue to trust Me. You are in Me. Now abide in Me and I will abide in you. There is no way a branch can bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine. No more can you bear fruit, except you abide in Me” (see John 15:4).

“I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing” (John 15:5). The only way abiding works is in the resurrection life of the genuine Vine. Jesus is, indeed, a *living* vine, and in Him we have a living union, and a living fellowship.

### *Strange Vines*

“Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?” (Jeremiah 2:21).

Practically speaking, what does this mean? People do so many strange things today. They hear the Word of God. Then, a woman leaves her husband. Just leaves. Why? Because she is a strange vine. We are God’s planting, His choice vine produced from the right seed. But when the planting becomes degenerate, it sends off wild shoots and becomes a “strange vine.” When we

are not abiding, we become a strange vine.

“My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill....” Isaiah 5:1-10 describes the Lord’s vineyard and the care He has taken to properly cultivate it: He fenced it in, dug around it, took out the stones, put in a winepress, and built a tower in the midst of it, where he watched until the grapes were ripe.

Then he said, “I planted it with the choicest vine, but when I went to gather, it brought forth wild grapes.”

### *Characteristics of a Strange Vine*

The Lord does everything to prevent us from producing a strange vine that bears wild fruit like Ishmael the wild man. God does not want us to enter into the ‘strange vine’ attitude, void of the nature of God. First, the strange vine walks by sight and is paranoid. Second, the strange vine judges according to appearances. Third, the strange vine reproves by what he hears and judges by what he sees, which negatively affects his emotional structure and system.

Ultimately, a strange vine denies people forgiveness, mercy, love, and grace. He denies the fruit of God in people’s lives because he is self-centered, negative, and reactionary in emotional

revolt.

When we abide in Jesus Christ, we plan our thoughts. We plan our responses. We plan our initiations. We plan our confession. We do everything through the plan of God.

*Chapter Two*  
**TAKE A STAND  
AND DON'T CHANGE**

The Word of God says in Ephesians 6:12-18, “We wrestle not against flesh and blood.” Yet, it *does* say that we wrestle, and a wrestling match involves an opponent. We are opposed by the kingdom of darkness. That is why verse 11 says we are to put on the whole armor of God, that we “may be able to *stand* against the wiles of the devil.” Then verse 13 says, “that ye may be able to *withstand* in the evil day.”

To stand against the wiles, or strategies, of the devil means that we do not change the armor of God. Our loins are girded about with truth, which is the Word of God; don't change what you believe about the Word of God. And having the breastplate of righteousness, don't change your standards of grace and love or your convictions of truth.

“Stand” simply means stand—don't change.

*Do not change.* Our feet are shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace for soul winning. Don't change that desire to be a soul winner.

To stand also means that we don't waver (Hebrews 10:23). Instead, we continue to take up the shield of faith that quenches the fiery darts of the wicked.

Then the Word of God says we are to put on the helmet of salvation (verse 17). Don't change the helmet of the Finished Work that protects the mind. Instead, be ready with the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

Christians who know how to stand choose to live by the Word of God—every word. They do not change. They believed in soul winning when they started out, and they still do. They believed in the Blood atonement, and they still do. They believed in a literal hell and a glorious heaven, and they still do. They believed they should make a commitment to the Cross, to take it up daily, and they do that with great conviction. They believed Christians should assemble more than ever as the last day approaches, and they gather more than before (Hebrews 10:25).

In these last days, as the demon armies assemble their forces to attack, the only way a Christian will end up staying true to God is if he

learns to abide. How do you overcome emotional hell in your system? By abiding. Abide and obey. That is enough for the Christian.

### *The Cultivated Christian*

We have a husbandman, God the Father, who takes care of His vineyard. As the Body of Christ, we are the vineyard. Jesus said, "If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6). This verse has nothing to do with a Christian losing his salvation. It is dealing with fruit-bearing in the life of a believer.

In John 13:10, Jesus had already said to Peter, "You don't need to be washed all over; only your feet need cleansing because you walk in the world." Christ already settled the issue of eternal security; it is a *finished* work (John 10:28). So when He speaks of casting men as branches into the fire, God is not speaking of hell's fire, but of the fiery trials of our faith that are more precious than gold (1 Peter 1:7). It has everything to do with our testimony bringing forth much fruit and revealing the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### *Be Specific (The Enemy Is!)*

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you...” (notice how He mentions His “words” again) “...ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:7-8).

Why is it that some Christians can't seem to learn how to abide? One reason is that many are not equipped for battle. Satan has appointed specific armies of demons whose entire duty is to make sure the Christian does not abide in Christ and does not let the words of God abide in his heart.

The key to a fruitful Christian life is in abiding. People do not get their marriages right because they don't abide in the doctrine of marriage. People lose their purity because they don't abide in the doctrine of purity. They become negative because they don't abide in the doctrine of edifying. They are not Spirit-taught because they don't abide in the spirit of meekness. Everything is in abiding.

Once I recognize that I am in Christ, then I must abide, trusting in the Lord continually in an unbroken fellowship. Yet, not only must I

abide in Him; His words—*His* words—must abide in me. That is what the Word of God says. Let His words abide in you.

### *The Way We Abide*

When the Word of God abides in me, it is completely resting in my memory, in my soul, in my frame of reference, and in my conscience. There are many ways God uses this word “abide”:

*Epimeno* is a strengthening form of the term “to abide.” It means that we keep getting strengthened as we abide (Acts 15:34).

*Katameno* refers to the Word of God constantly being resident in our soul, an always abiding presence (Acts 1:13).

*Parameno* means that we continue to draw near by hearing and abiding (1 Corinthians 16:6; Philippians 1:25).

Then we have *hupomeno*—to abide and remain where we are planted. That means to abide right where we are. We rest where we are. We fulfill the will of God in the place He has called us. We fulfill the will of God now, where we are. We do what we can as we abide and bloom where we are planted (2 Timothy 2:12).

*Prosmeno* means to abide still longer, such as

in Matthew 15:32. It means we abide longer, and we don't stop abiding, in spite of circumstances.

If you have been doing well in recent days, then keep abiding! Purpose to abide more than you did before in your unbroken fellowship with Jesus Christ, in the unbroken relationship you have with the Lord. According to 2 Corinthians 13:4, our fellowship is with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 1:9). It is a fellowship of faith (Ephesians 3:9) in the work of the gospel (Philippians 1:5).

## *Chapter Three*

# ASK WHAT YOU WILL

Consider the fellowship we have, the personal communion, as we cultivate God's presence. Abiding helps us not to fail. Do you know how to guarantee you will bring forth fruit? Abide. Do you know how you can be assured that you will have peace and joy in the anointing of the Holy Spirit in your life? Abide in the genuine vine, Jesus Christ.

Satan sends in armies of demons as he does everything to stop the abiding process of the cultivated Christian. But when we cultivate God's presence, the devil's presence cannot touch us (1 John 4:4; 5:18).

Jesus was saying, "If I abide in you, and My words abide in you, and you abide in Me, that is when your prayer life becomes totally revolutionized." John 15:7 doesn't say, "Ask what *God* wills." It says, "Ask what *you* will."

Notice what the Word of God is saying. We

are to ask what *we* will. Some would say that if a man is abiding, of course he is in *God's* will. But, there is only one passage in all the Bible that mentions praying for God's will; that is 1 John 5:14. God wants to have unbroken fellowship with His children. He wants us to prove Him to see whether or not our heavenly Father will give us the things we desire.

He says, "Ask what *YOU* will."

John 14:13-14 says, "And *whatsoever* ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask *anything* in my name, I will do it." Why did He say "anything"? What does "anything" mean?

In Mark 11:24, Jesus said, "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Not only that, in the previous verse He said "*whosoever*...shall have whatsoever he saith."

When we say, "If it is God's will" after we have prayed, it takes away from the love of God the Father for His children. God wants us to have His Word abiding in us. Then, He wants us to step out as we are abiding, to prove our Father—and see what He wants to do for us (Malachi 3:10). That is why He said, "It *shall* be done unto you"—no if's, and's, or but's about it.

## *How to Glorify God*

“Herein is my Father glorified....” The Father is glorified when we bear much fruit. He is glorified in missions. Our ministry desires to send missionaries into 220 countries by the year 2000. We *want* that. That is fruit. And it glorifies God. We want to see Bible studies and new ministries starting up. The Father is glorified in that. Hundreds of people accepted Christ during recent outreaches in our city—and God is glorified in the fruit that has come forth.

We have believed the whole counsel of God, and we still do. We have believed that we ought to be faithful stewards, and we still do. We have believed in the grace of God, and we still do. That is the difference.

Satan’s fiery darts cannot quench a Christian who holds the shield of faith, who allows the Word of God through the Holy Spirit to reign. The key is in this principle of abiding. As we abide more, and abide longer, and as we continue to trust and to obey, we bear more fruit and the Father is glorified.

## *The Father’s Heart*

Parents love to do things for their children. A dad or a mom would do anything for their

child, providing it would not hurt them. And just as a child freely asks his parents for what he wants, we need to go to Jesus in the same way. Then, we ought to tell Him things that we know will please Him, such as, “Jesus, You are the greatest!” And of course, He is, and He deserves it. Certainly, all of what we could possibly say to please Him is true and He deserves it, whether He were to answer our prayer or not.

It glorifies the Father to bless us. We are His creation, His children, members in particular of His royal family (1 Peter 2:9). We are kings and priests. Therefore, ask from the position of abiding and not out of self-centeredness. If we are walking with God, agreeing with Him, He loves to have us say, “Father, this is what I desire.” He just loves to bless us.

If Christians are abiding in the Word of God, they will be faithful to the thing God has called them to. Whether it is being part of the choir, teaching children, knocking on doors, visitation, or intercessory prayer, recognize the value of abiding faithfully. Whatever we do is a ministry that is needful—for ourselves and for the congregation. When His will is accomplished in us, we will continue to bear much fruit as we rest in unbroken fellowship with Christ.

## CONCLUSION

It is so vital that we take God at His Word. He said, "If you abide in me, and My words abide in you, *ask what you will*. It shall be done unto you, so the Father may be glorified." (See John 15:7-8.) He desires to give His children the things they are asking for by grace through faith.

Always remember that the Father's heart is to bless His children, that we would know Him and trust Him. Then, when the storms come, and the heat comes, we shall not be moved because we have learned to abide in the genuine Vine.

*Precious Father, we love You. We thank You for the opportunity to abide with You in unbroken fellowship. We want to know You more. Please give us what we ask in a miracle of love and grace. We come to you with a full measure of faith that You have given to fill us. And now we ask for a miracle, in the precious name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*