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Please pray for our upcoming campaign to Kenya August 17-31.

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ABIDE

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The key to everything about the Christian life is simply abiding in Jesus. He is the one and only Source from which life can be drawn, natural or spiritual, present or future. He is not only our Source for life, but for living. He said in John 15:1, *"I am the true vine [the genuine source], and My Father is the husbandman [caretaker]."* The thing for which we should be the most concerned in our walk with God, is not "Christian activity" (doing), but our union with Jesus (being) - abiding in Him. Apart from Jesus there is no spiritual life and no spiritual living. If our being is correct, then our doing will be also, and it will be abundant. In verses 4 and 5 Jesus said *"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. 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 [apart from] Me ye can do nothing."* Our responsibility as a child of God, as a branch in the Vine, is not to produce fruit, but to allow ourselves to be used as a channel, a conduit, through which His life can flow.

Living a fruitful, productive, God-honoring Christian life is not hard, and it is not complicated; it is simply a matter of continually, moment by moment, being in the presence of Jesus. In verse 7 we read, *"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will [desire, wish, have in mind] and it shall be done [come into existence] unto you."* The result of abiding is revealed in verse 8, *"Herein is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples."*

The abiding, fruit bearing, life of a child of God is a choosing life. When Jesus said in verse 4 *"Abide in Me"*, He spoke those words, not as a suggestion, but as an imperative authoritative command. But when He said, *"except ye abide in Me"* He used the subjunctive mood, which means you have a choice to obey or not. Every born-again Believer has the potential for a victorious life, but potential only becomes practical reality through the conscious choice of remaining in His presence, drawing upon His life.

The abiding life is a continuing life. It must be maintained. Satan's goal for every human being is separation from God. He will do all in his limited power to keep lost people separated from Jesus, thus preventing them from having life eternal. And he will use every distraction to keep Christians from abiding in Jesus, from having life abundant. Why? Looking again at verse 8, *"Herein is My Father glorified.."* Satan does not want our lives to bring glory to God and if we live apart from Jesus, they won't. There are two types of Christian activity, that which is generated out of our own will and fleshly resources and that which results from the guidance and empowering of the Holy Spirit working through us. The only kind of "fruit bearing" that glorifies God is that which is produced by the life of Jesus flowing through us as we abide in Him. As a child of God, it is not possible for us to be separated from God in

terms of eternal life. But, as a Christian, it is possible to be separated from the abundant life by failure to abide in Jesus moment by moment. It is only by so doing that we are able to draw upon His life continually.

The abiding life is a clean life. Abiding in Jesus is the only sure way for a child of God to maintain an unsullied walk with God. Jesus said in verse 3, "Now [already] *ye are clean* [prepared to bear fruit] *through the word* [settled once and for all] *which I have spoken unto you.*" We are cleansed from sin positionally once and for all by the blood of Jesus, but it is by abiding in Him continuously that we maintain a holy life.

The abiding life is an amazingly confident and conquering life. Jesus said in verse 7, "*If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done* [come into existence] *unto you.*" In verse 3 the word that is spoken is past and settled and cannot be changed, but in this verse the word spoken is present, living and current. It is the voice of the Spirit of God speaking to our inner man. Jesus is saying here that as we abide in His presence we may ask what we will **because our will is joined to His**. The God-honoring life of real fruit bearing faith is produced by abiding in Jesus. As we remain in His presence, we do not have to search for the will of God because as we abide, we are the will of God.

Dear Christian, if your life is dry and barren spiritually, it does not have to be. You can become joyful and fruit bearing by simply choosing to abide in Jesus. As an act of your will, come to Him now and tell Him you want to abide in Him. You want His living words to abide in you, and you are willing to make whatever adjustments are necessary. If some pruning is needed, then so be it. It is worth whatever it takes to live in union with Jesus. Begin the very first part of the day by coming into His presence for worship, fellowship and refreshing. Allow His life to flow through you moment by moment. Begin now to draw upon Him - for everything. Remember Jesus' words in John 10:10, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)*

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