

ABIDING IN CHRIST

Text: John 15:4-5

Key Word: Abide

Key Thought: Abiding in Christ will give you Peace

We are now living in an increasingly lawless time where we are seeing the love of many growing cold. Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in;

“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold, but he who endures to the end shall be saved.”

Matthew 24:12-13

Jesus emphasized the importance of making our relationship with Him our greatest priority in life.

Jesus Himself said,

“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.”

John 15:4-5

So how do we make our relationship with God our GREATEST priority in Life?

I. Intimate Walk

II. Growing In Your Faith

III. Put Christ First

IV. Having a Lifestyle of Prayer

I. Intimate Walk

Our ability to love others and to realize our full potential in life greatly depends on us maintaining an intimate walk with the Lord. Jesus continually emphasized the importance of having a genuine love for others.

Jesus said,

“This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”

John 15:12-13

God's desire is that our lives would bear much eternal fruit and that all that He has planned for our life would come to pass in our lives.

How intimate we are in our walk with the Lord is greatly reflected in the degree to which we love others unconditionally. The more intimate we are in our walk with the Lord, the more we will instinctively love others. The Apostle John wrote,

“And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.”

1 John 4:16

Jesus Himself made this very clear when He said,

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.”

John 15:16

Developing Christlike character and learning to love others unconditionally comes from maintaining an abiding relationship with Christ. We see Jesus again emphasizing the importance of spending quality time in His presence in the gospel of Luke,

“Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore, tell her to help me.” And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”

Luke 10:38-42

It is the way that we live our life and love others that will have the greatest impact on other people. Jesus Himself said,

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Jesus also said,

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13:34-35

If we do not continually spend quality time with God, who is love, invariably the ways of the world and the people around us will begin to negatively affect the way that we live our life.

For this reason, we need to ensure that we continually remain intimate in our walk with the Lord so that our lives will reflect the fruit of the Spirit and make a positive impact in our lives.

II. Growing In your Faith

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men;”

2 Corinthians 3:2

The Apostle Peter emphasized the importance of having fruitful growth in our faith for this very purpose.

The Apostle Peter wrote,

“But also, for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Peter 1:5-8

“For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things, you will never stumble.”

2 Peter 1:9-10

Growing in our faith depends greatly on us spending quality time with the LORD and in God’s word, the Bible. In 2 Timothy chapter 3, we see two things that are very relevant to us today. One, the Apostle Paul describing the state of the world in the times that we are now living in (2 Timothy 3:1-5) and two, the Apostle Paul emphasizing to the young Pastor Timothy, the importance of spending quality time in the word of God to remain strong in his faith. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Spending quality time with the Lord and in God’s word helps us to grow in character. Growing in Christlike character is a great key to promotion in God’s Kingdom.

III. Put Christ First

Jesus said,

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.”

Mark 12:30

He also said,

“Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:31-33

We need to make time DAILY to hear from the Lord. Daily seeking wisdom from God.

King David wrote,

“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So, I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. Because Your loving kindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.”

Psalm 63:1-3

In the book of James we read,

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

James 1:5

IV. Having A Lifestyle Of Prayer

We need to learn to involve God in all that we do. God knows what is best for us in every situation and at all times. This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

We need to continually maintain a soft and repentant heart. We need to be quick to repent of all known sin in our life and be quick to forgive others. Unconfessed sin will negatively affect our intimacy with the Lord.

The Psalmist wrote,

“I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. But certainly, God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer.”

Psalm 66:17-19

- Having a repentant heart helps to keep the communication pipeline open between God and us and enables us to experience sweet fellowship in our walk with the Lord.
- The importance of having an open bible when we spend time with the Lord. God will always speak clearly to us through His word as the Holy Spirit highlights passages of Scripture that speak to us and that are relevant to our circumstances
- Cultivating a lifestyle of true worship. Worship helps us to connect to the heart of God. King David was a worshipper who wrote many of the Psalms. He was the only one referred to in the Bible as being a man after God’s own heart.

In the book of Acts we read,

“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’

Acts 13:22

In Closing, may I encourage you, given the times that we are now living in, that you make your relationship with the Lord your highest priority in life! In doing this you will remain strong in your faith and begin to see all that God has planned for your life unfolding in the days to come, as you allow Him to direct your steps in life. You will also experience God’s peace and joy even during your trials and challenges as you learn to abide in Him and to grow in your unconditional love for others.

God has so much planned for our future! We see this clearly!

As my final thought, I want to bring you to the book of Jeremiah,

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13

Date: Feb 27/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

After Service Song: I Found a Love