

Abiding Through the Word

John 15:7-8

**7** *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

**I. An Invitation to Intimacy**

A. If you ABIDE in Me, and my words abide in you

1. Abide = dwell, abode, live with
2. Living with someone is INTIMATE!
3. Matthew 11:28-30 (Nasb)

**28** *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.*

Message Version:

**28-30** *"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly."*

JESUS DOESN'T WANT AN EMPLOYEE, HE WANTS A BRIDE

B. Jesus IS the Reward

- Seeking Jesus' Hand vs Jesus Face
- Psalm 27:7-8:

*7 Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice, And be gracious to me and answer me. 8 When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "I shall seek Your face, Lord."*

- **Matt 13:44-46: 44** *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*
- Song - The more I seek you, the more I find you, the more I find you, the more I love you
- When all we want is Jesus, our will, our desires, our wants, become like His
- Transformation begins to occur at a heart level

**II. Ask Whatever You Wish?! (John 15:7)**

A. Ask whatever you wish is NOT...

1. a blank check
2. a genie in a bottle
3. a get out of jail free card

4. Treating Jesus like that diminishes who He is and the intimacy He desires with us and turns our intimacy from relational into transactional

B. Ask whatever you wish then becomes...

1. A response to intimacy with Jesus
2. An outflow of our heart and will that is aligned with Jesus
3. An invitation to join Jesus in praying for God's Will (not our own) to be done
4. A life and prayers that are powerful and pleasing to God

PRAYING FOR GOD'S WILL (AND REALLY MEANING IT)  
CAN ONLY COME FROM A PLACE OF INTIMACY

### III. Bearing Fruit (*John 15:8*)

A. Bearing Fruit Glorifies God

1. Fruit Comes from being connected NOT from effort
2. What is Fruit? Spiritual Fruit (Love, joy, patience...) and people coming to know Jesus
3. The fruit can never be the focus. The Focus must remain on the vine!
4. God makes the fruit... not us

IF GOD IS THE DOER, GOD GETS THE GLORY

5. The more we abide, the more fruit HE produces in us, and the more Glory He gets!  
- It's a whole different rhythm of life!

B. Bearing Fruit Proves you to be His disciple

1. Everything Good comes from God (Especially real fruit)
2. When we are with Jesus, the Fruit is evident and people notice (**Acts 4:13**)
3. The Counterfeit to bearing fruit is pretense. Can't duct tape a banana to a tree...
4. We don't bear fruit SO THAT we follow Jesus... we Follow Jesus and then bear fruit.

BEARING FRUIT IS NOT A CONDITION OF DISCIPLESHIP  
BEARING FRUIT IS A CONSEQUENCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

5. Prove to "BE" His disciples  
- "be" actually means "becoming"  
- signifies growth, not arrival

### IV. Abiding in the Word: (*John 15:7*)

1. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you..."
2. How do we abide in His word?  
- Joshua 1:8 - Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth,  
but meditate on it day and night...  
- Spend time in it, make it a date!
3. TAKE YOUR TIME! Pray, Ask God to speak and reveal, be consistent!
4. More than anything, make Jesus your First Love
5. Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) together on Psalm 23