

ABIDING IN JESUS

John 15:1-8 KJV

INTRODUCTION: As we read John 15:4-7 there is one little word that shines forth, being repeated seven times: “abide.” We also see an even smaller word used twice: “if.” The word “if” begs the question: “Will you abide in Christ?” So, our question for today is very simple: “How do I abide in Christ?” Two of God’s most wonderful promises in His Word are found right here in John 15:7-8.

I. WHAT ARE THE PROMISES “IF” WE ABIDE IN JESUS?

The Greek word for “abide” is “Meno.” It means “to remain—to continue.” If we chose to remain and to continue in our relationship with Jesus we will, according to promise number one continue to produce His fruit in our lives! John 15:4-5. As we abide in Jesus and find our source of life in Him, He finds an outlet for His life through us! Galatians 5:22-25. A large part of our trouble in this world is that the world’s idea of being truly fruitful is different from God’s idea of being fruitful. In God’s eyes, our being truly fruitful is bearing God’s character in our lives: Colossians 3:12-17. That is why in the world’s view as you age you become less fruitful and in God’s eyes you become even more fruitful: Psalm 92:12-15. The truly fruitful person is not the one who can boast best about their own achievements but the one who can boast best about what God has achieved: Jeremiah 9:23-24. As we abide in Jesus He extends His grace for us to become even more like Him: 2 Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15. The second promise we find of abiding in Jesus is answered prayer: John 15:7. “If” the great condition to answered prayer!

II. FORCED TO GO DEEPER!

Joseph, from the Old Testament illustrates for us the way our Lord uses the painful pathways of life to help us find an abiding relationship with Him. Genesis 37:1-7; Genesis 39:1-5; Genesis 39:19-23. Notice the words “But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him.” That is the abiding relationship we need! Testing, discipline, hardships and failures has always been God’s way for preparing His faithful servants. Those whom God uses greatly must first learn that the resources they will need to achieve God’s purpose for themselves does not come from themselves. Joseph as a slave and as a prisoner kept pushing his roots deeper into his God until one day he found the river of God! Psalm 46:4-5. This river of God flows from the very throne of God: Revelation 22:1-2. Rather it is flood season or drought season there is a river available to us that God will provide a constant source of divine power and life. It is called “Abiding in Jesus!”

III. FINDING AND ABIDING IN THE SOURCE!

If we are to be fruitful in all the seasons of our lives we must learn to abide in our relationship with our Lord Jesus! Psalm 92:12-15. We must quite trusting in our own gifts and abilities and turn instead to our Lord Jesus Christ and His gifts and abilities to continue to produce His fruit in our lives! Jeremiah 17:7-8; Jeremiah 29:11-13. Please when God tests your relationship don’t turn from the Spring of living water. Keep going deeper in your relationship with Jesus and find in Him true fruitfulness!