

# Abiding in Christ Living in His Love

9-2-22



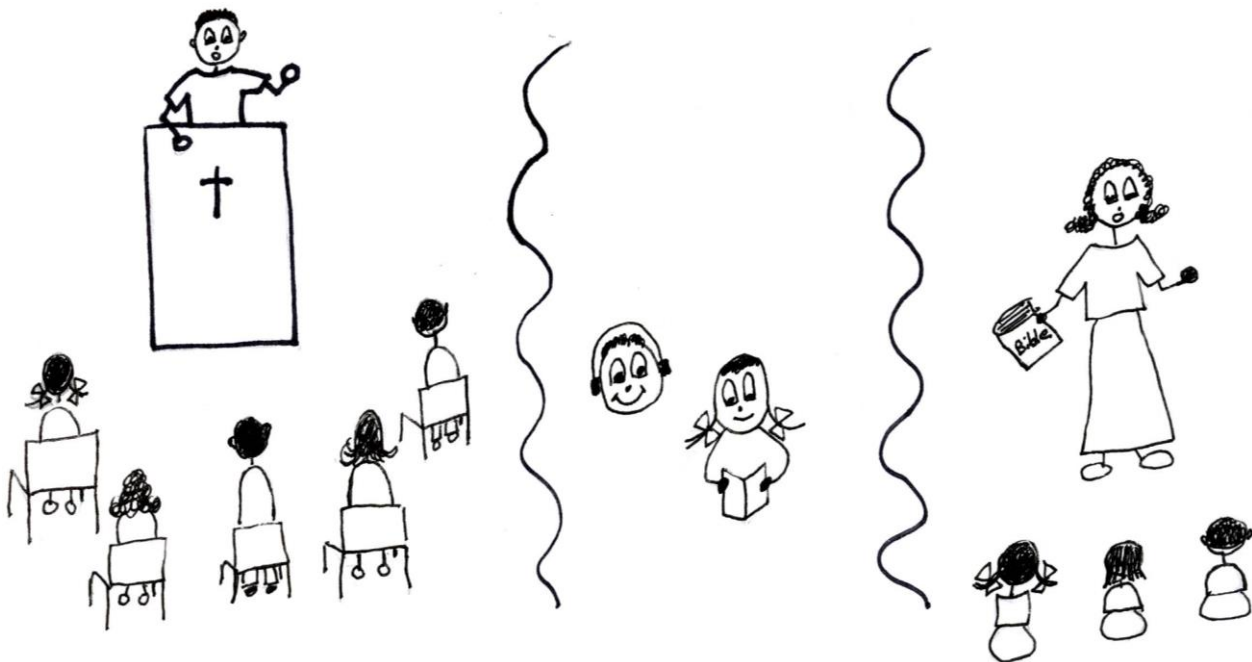
*John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

Abiding in Christ or living in Christ means having Christ's thinking in our minds! The Holy Spirit directs our lives through Christ's thinking. Therefore, we can trust and obey what God is telling us through Christ's thinking in the Bible. Living in Christ is talking to God in prayer - having a heart to heart conversation with Him. The world will do everything to take us away from this kind of living - this kind of love and joy! However, God will give us the guidance, grace and strength to abide in Christ! We just have to stay out of His way and let God do His job.



*Isaiah 55:8-9 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts; nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD.*

So, how do we get God's thoughts and ways so we can abide in Christ? We need to learn His word in the Bible. God the Holy Spirit is the One Who makes the thinking of God in the Bible clear to us. Without Him we wouldn't understand one word. When we are young, we need to have others read and explain the word of God to us. Eventually we can read the Bible on our own. We still need to learn from Bible study teachers so we can grow in God's wisdom.



*For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Timothy 1:7*

We learn from the Bible not to live in fear. When we are walking by the Holy Spirit, or letting the Holy Spirit lead us, we are not living in fear. However, there are sooo many things that can take our thoughts away from God's thoughts. Many of them start with fear! OOOOH! We might be afraid that someone won't like us if we don't do what he or she wants. What he or she wants might not be what God wants! God wants us to live or abide in Christ!



There are thousands of other distractions. But God gives us the power and self-control through the Holy Spirit to follow His ways. He gives us His love and we can completely trust in His love. We can rest in the love, power and self-control God gives us. Any time a thought takes us away from His thinking, we need to get rid of it and go back to God's thoughts. God the Holy Spirit will give us the power to do this.

*Philippians 4:6-8 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, Brethren, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.*



*Luke 5:16 But Jesus Himself would often slip away to the wilderness and pray.*

The world was sometimes distracting to Jesus. He wanted to get away from distractions so He could talk with the Father. So, He would go to a quiet place. We also need to go to a quiet place and be still so we can pray to the Father - so we can have a conversation with God. We need to set aside time daily to pray to God and pour out our hearts to Him.



*John 15:7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

*Psalm 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us.*

When we pray we are talking to God Who is always there and always hears. We can pour out our hearts to Him! Our reasons for prayer are not to be selfish; they must line up with God's will. Praying for someone to hear the Gospel is certainly not selfish and it is certainly God's will. Praying for a better bike can be a selfish prayer and maybe not God's will. When Jesus asked for anything, the Father gave it to Him. This is because Jesus was never selfish and always asked according to the will of the Father. This takes time for us to learn. The more of Christ's thinking we have the more we will ask according to God's will.

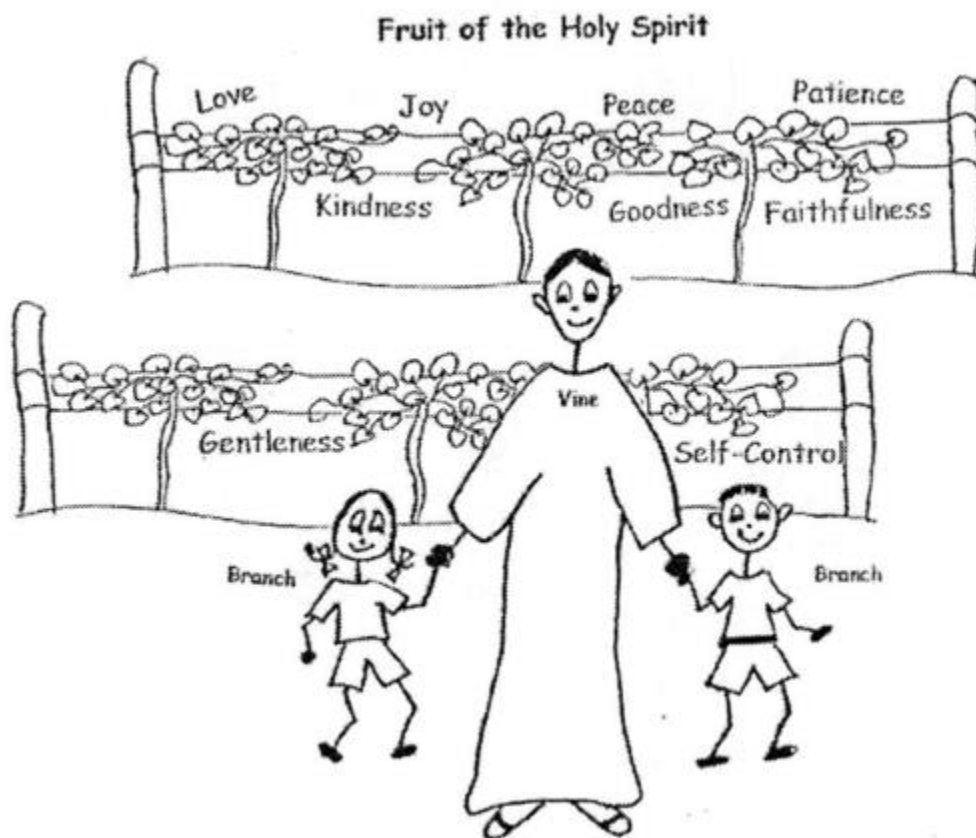




*John 15:2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away (lifts up); and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.*

In this Scripture Jesus is talking to believers and it can be misunderstood. The word "deiro" is often translated "lift up". So, "take away" can mean "lift up" the branch so it can bear fruit. This makes sense because God never takes believers away from Jesus Christ! He is with us forever! God lifts us up so we can bear fruit again.

"Prunes" means God cuts off anything that is not helping the branch to grow. God prunes the branch so it can bear more fruit. God wants us to grow in Christ, our Vine.





*John 15:6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as (like) a branch and dries up, and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.*

Remember, Jesus is talking to believers. We become children of God at salvation. Life after we believe is to bear fruit. If we don't do that we are **like** a dried up branch. A dried up branch cannot produce fruit. God can't produce fruit in us when we are "like a dried up branch". God doesn't throw us away and burn us, we are just not able to bear fruit. This verse is not about being saved; it is about sanctification or being set apart for God. It is about producing fruit by the power of God the Holy Spirit.



*Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God the Father loves the Son with a perfect love! Jesus loves us with this same love! Since we are in Christ the Father loves us with a perfect love! It's like a circle of love! We live in a love starved world. Jesus tells us to abide in His love; live in His love. While we can't depend on the love of people, we can depend on God's love! Nothing can separate us from the love of God! Soak in those truths! Read: Ephesians 3:17-19

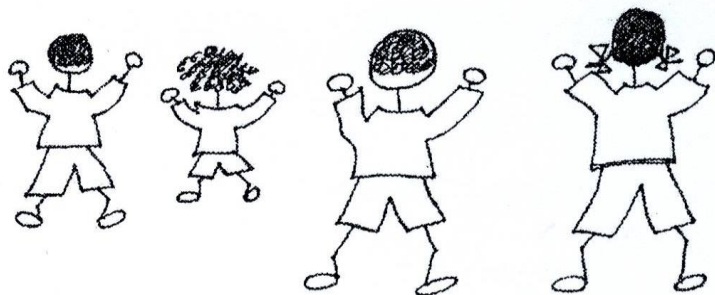
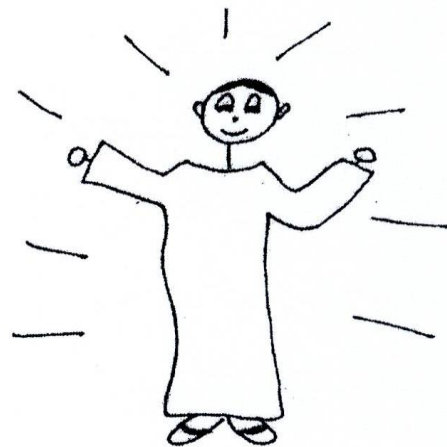


*John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

What gave Jesus joy? Lost people, sinners, getting saved from hell! Once we are saved by believing in Jesus Christ as our Savior, our joy is that our names are written in Heaven. We can never lose our salvation. We also have joy when others become believers in Jesus Christ and when they are being encouraged by the word of God. We are to talk about Jesus to those around us, encouraging them in the word. Joy is the redemption of the lost or the saving of the lost.

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20

God's  
Love  
Never  
Fails



*John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

No one can take away the blessing of abiding in Christ. Only we can choose not to abide. That would be a foolish choice! Let us choose to learn in the Bible about our wonderful God. Let us be comforted in His words and trust and obey Him. Let us keep talking to God in prayer - pouring our hearts out to Him. Let us cozy in His love and joy! Let us tell others about Jesus Christ! Through the power of God the Holy Spirit, let us live in Christ!

