

Perfect Abiding

(Properly Approaching God)

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Introduction

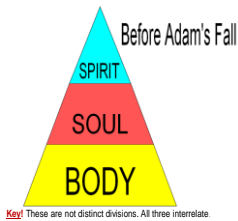
Hymn: *What a Friend We have in Jesus*

“What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear
What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer
Oh what peace we often forfeit
Oh what needless pain we bear
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer”

Text: John 15:4 “Abide in Me and I in You”

1) Abide in Your Redemption

Note: Redemption bought you from your union with Satan and established you in perfect union with God



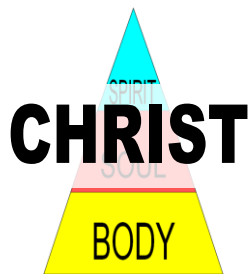
- Bodily concerns reign supreme
- Moods dominate our disposition (Happiness depends upon circumstances)
- God's goodness depends upon my situation



- How am I affected?
- How do I benefit?
- Will I get my desires?
- Does anyone listen to my opinion?



➤ Christ's death established perfect union between us and His Father—Abiding!



➤ Our abiding union with Christ results in our being conformed to his image (Romans 8:29)

Note: If we are one with Christ, then every circumstance in your life affects him as directly as it affects you.

Note: We tend to separate our experiences from our relationship with Christ. When we are in a hard situation we tend to feel alone, as though God is not in the midst of it with us.

Note: We must remain more aware of our abiding in Christ than the circumstances around us

Example: Stephen did not get his eyes off of abiding in Jesus despite an angry mob preparing to stone him to death.

2) Abide in Every Situation (One of Life's most valued Lessons)

Notes:

- Know that God engineers your circumstances
- Know that Christ never breaks his abiding union with you no matter what the circumstance
- Know that God has a purpose in every situation
- **Key:** We think that if God were in it then everything would be right. No so. God often sends his servants into situations that are not right:

- **Examples:**

- Storm tossed sea
- Paul's beatings and imprisonments

- **Evidences We are not Practicing Abiding**

- **Bad news** shakes us
- We respond to circumstances with **moods** rather than faith
- We **blame** others for our misfortunes
- We **criticize** others rather than lovingly support them in prayer

- **The Person Who Abides will Never be Shaken**

Psalm 112

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in his commandments!

2 His offspring will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.

4 **Light dawns in the darkness for the upright**; he is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

5 **It is well** with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.

6 **For the righteous will never be moved**; he will be remembered forever.

7 **He is not afraid of bad news**; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

8 **His heart is steady**; he will not be afraid, until he looks in triumph on his adversaries.

9 He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn is exalted in honor.

10 The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!

3) Abide in God's Provisions

- **Abide with Prayerful Confidence**

- **Hebrews 4:14-16** "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us **hold fast** our confession.

15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us then with **confidence** draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Hebrews 10:19-23** “Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,
 - 20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,
 - 21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
 - 22** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
 - 23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

➤ **Abide in His Name**

- **Psalm 8** “Lord, our Lord, **how majestic is your name** in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.
 - 2** Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.
 - 3** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
 - 4** what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?
 - 5** Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.
 - 6** You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,
 - 7** all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,
 - 8** the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.
 - 9** O Lord, our Lord, **how majestic is your name** in all the earth!

➤ **Abide in His Promises**

- **2 Corinthians 1:18-20** “As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

20 For **all the promises of God find their Yes in him.** That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

➤ **Abide in the Cross**

○ **Galatians 6:14** “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

➤ **Abide in the fullness of the Holy Spirit**

○ **1 Corinthians 1:21-22** “And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us,
22 and who has also put his **seal** on us and **given us his Spirit in our hearts** as a guarantee.

○ **Ephesians 5:18-21** “And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be **filled with the Spirit**,
19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart,
20 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,
21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Call to Action

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