



FREEDOM MINISTRIES

of the Quad Cities

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September 2023

What does it mean to Abide in Christ? Picture an intimate, close relationship with Jesus, not just a superficial acquaintance. In John 15:4-7, Jesus tells His disciples that drawing life from Him is essential, using the picture of branches united to a vine; *“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. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.... If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*

A young woman came to us recently with a history of emotional & spiritual abuse from her parents and church. She never felt loved by them or God her entire life. This young woman was so hurt by her religious family and community that to trust God, ‘abiding’ was unthinkable. If God was like her father, she wanted nothing to do with Him! ... *“I hated myself so much and I had a hard time feeling loved and accepted. So many brutally hard core issues! For the last while all I wanted was for my parents to feel my pain, I wanted to inflict all that on them so bad! All the rejection from my sister that did not protect me and often feeling pushed back in life. Being the peacekeeper for so long made me feel needed, not wanted at home—alone inside. I just wanted someone else to feel that too.”*

To “abide” is to live, continue, or remain in Him. In 1 John 2 it is synonymous with “knowing” Christ; our salvation! Abiding is also that vital union with Christ. It is our very life (John 14:12). It is the Father who, as the divine Gardener, has grafted us into Christ. It is Christ, by His Word, who has cleansed us and fit us for union with Himself (John 15:3). Abiding in Christ means allowing His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. Abide in My love (John 15:9) means we rest our life on the love of Jesus

who lays down His life for His friends (John 15:13). Abiding is submitting to Him, as our True Vine, allowing Him to cut away anything that keeps us from giving our lives to Him wholeheartedly.

But, abiding is more than “union” with Him. Abiding is “communion” with Him! Abiding is life-giving, soul-thrilling, joy-producing communion with God through Christ (1 John 1:3; John 15:11).

Why do we seldom long for this fellowship with God? David prays, “O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1). David urgently and earnestly seeks God. His soul thirsts for God. He is desperate for God. Do we seek God like this? Do we desire God like this? Is this the cry of our heart? What does it look like to



abide in Christ daily? John Piper says, “Hour-by-hour abiding in Jesus means hour-by-hour trusting him to meet all your needs and be all our treasure.” J.C. Ryle explains, “To abide in Christ means to keep up a habit of constant close communion with Him—to be always leaning on Him, resting on Him, pouring out our hearts to Him, and using Him as our Fountain of life and strength; as our chief Companion and best Friend. To have His words abiding in us, is to keep His sayings and precepts continually before our memories and minds, and to make them the guide of our actions and the rule of our daily conduct and behavior.”

After ministering to this young woman for three days, her relationship with the Lord was transformed. She shared this testimony, *“As we were praying they asked me to put into words what my heart felt like... to verbalize the pain. A clear picture came to my mind of my heart as a limp lifeless deflated balloon. It wasn't only a picture of pain, but death, a painful slow death. It was draped lifeless over a pair of hands. The next day as*

Mission

Freedom Ministries of the Quad Cities exists to help couples and individuals experience freedom in Christ through identifying and resolving spiritual and emotional conflicts thus strengthening, empowering and helping fulfill their relationship with Jesus Christ and others.

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

John 15:7

we again prayed they asked Me to pray for a new picture of what Jesus desires to replace my pain with and it was another clear picture in my mind of a box full of pink hearts overflowing.. and, floating all around. I so needed to FEEL the redemption and tender love of Jesus in a real way."

And so, Abiding means a new relationship with Jesus and wanting to be with Him. He and He alone gives us what we need by giving us "himself". Let's eagerly say with David, "Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you!"

-Adapted from: Open Bible, Ligonier Ministries, and Got Questions

United Way

Did you know you can support Freedom Ministries through your company at work? If you'd like your charitable donations to go toward Freedom Ministries, just write Freedom Ministries on the line to show where you wish your donations to go. Our United Way number is #663708.

We thank you.



Praise and Prayer

Praise

- ◆ For God's love and grace He extends to us.
- ◆ For Churches and individuals who believe in and support this ministry with prayer and gifts.

Prayer

- ◆ For strength and leading by the Holy Spirit as we counsel those who come with relationship problems.
- ◆ For another counselor to be interested in helping people find healing and freedom in their relationships with God and others.

Birdies for Charity

Thanks to all who sent in donations for the Birdies campaign. We are grateful to you for your gifts. \$4,620 were donated to Freedom Ministries this year! And 1,929 birdies were scored!

Thank you!



CFJH Zoom Conference

WE INVITE YOU TO OUR CARING FOR THE HEART ZOOM WEBINAR

October 16 & 17, 2023

Theme: "Who We Were Created To Be"

Monday, October 16th: "Value, Identity, and Purpose"; "What Happens that Causes Us to Believe Lies About Ourselves"

Tuesday, October 17th: "Identity and Psalm 139"; "The Child Within"

The Webinar registration will open on
October 2, 2023

On October 21, 2023, there will be two Workshop sessions:

9:00 – 10:15 am "How My View of God Affects the Way I Believe He Sees"

10:45 am – 12:00 pm "The Effects of Shame"

Registration for the Workshops, via Zoom Meeting, will open on October 2, 2023.

If you no longer want to receive the newsletter, please contact us. Our email address is: freedomministries@att.net or write to: Freedom Ministries, P.O. Box 953, Moline, IL 61266-0953