

Abiding and Waiting!



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Abiding and *waiting* for the return of the Lord Jesus means *living* and *following* His advice on life issues we face every day. It means producing spiritual *fruit* by meeting hurtful things and difficult situations according to New Testament teaching; It means obeying God when Scripture gives advice and instruction on life issues. Jesus is Hebrews 5:9 “*The author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*”

We are *abiding* in Christ when we are *following* His advice. John 15:4 “*Abide [continue; remain] in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*”

To abide in Christ is to live by the Word; it means to maintain a position of *trust* on the Atonement Blood of Christ. We should see spiritual fruit every day by meeting things as God says to meet them when we experience them. If we do not meet things scripturally, our faith withers, and we are in danger of being “*Cast into the fire*” and burned John 15:6. *Abiding* and *waiting* means *preparing* by *forgiving* everyone of everything!

God’s Word is the Truth and if it is sown on the good soil of a willing heart, we will “*Bring forth fruit*” Mark 4:20. Jesus told the religious leaders how to *escape* the wrath of God that is coming on a rebellious, wicked, and sinful world. He said

Matthew 3:8 “*Bear fruits worthy of repentance; [Let your lives prove your change of heart].*”

Satan is deceitful, wicked, and evil beyond anything we could ever imagine or describe. We are in a very serious *battle* with a deadly *enemy* of our soul. Jesus gave repeated warnings about our seeing spiritual fruit in our life by meeting difficult situations, tough trials, tests of faith, and the temptations we encounter—meeting each one according to His Word with the help of His Spirit.

Matthew 24:4 “*Take heed that no man deceive you*”—because of all the spiritual deception, false teaching, and countless temptations of the world today. All this *could* make us anxious and fearful, but if we keep *abiding in Christ* and *trusting God* each day to protect us from error, He will. We are 1 Peter 1:5 “*Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*”

Jesus takes every *prayer* and *presents* it to the Father. John 14:1 “*Ye believe in God, believe also in me.*” Every promise is *guaranteed* when our trust is on the *Blood* 2 Corinthians 1:20. It is our responsibility to *keep* our trust on the Atonement Jesus made for us. By a perfect sacrifice, Jesus Hebrews 5:9 “*Became the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey him.*”

Because of the apostle’s concern for others, he did “*Not cease to pray*”—asking God Colossians 1:9-10 “*that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*” Increasing in knowledge is part of producing spiritual fruit.

Jesus wrote to the Ephesian church Revelation 2:2 “*I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them*

liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 “*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*”

The *lampstand* is the church made up of believers in Christ. They are told not to *fear* persecution, because they will be *tested* on the sincerity of their faith in God. Revelation 2:10 “*Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.*” He adds Revelation 2:11 “*He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*” To be *abiding in Christ* is *bearing spiritual fruit* and keeping our *trust* on His Atonement Blood sacrifice.

The *Word of God* is the basis of our *faith in Christ*. Hebrews 4:12 “*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

The *Word of God* will test our *attitude* to God—it will separate the *true* from the *false* believer—John 5:29 “*They that have done good [trusted God in faith], to the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil [no trust on God], to the resurrection of damnation.*”

Jesus commended the Pergamum church for their faith; Revelation 2:14 “*But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumbling-block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*”

It is a warning about false doctrines that would allow immoral behavior, idols replacing God, or unbelief, drunkenness, and other serious

sins, but *still* thinking they are *saved*. False teaching does *not emphasize* the need to *repent* if they were once *in Christ*; and does *not emphasize* the *vital* need to persevere in their faith in God by keeping one's trust on the Blood of Christ—for health, healing, provisions, protection, and everything else.

To Thyatira Revelation 2:18-19, “*These are the words of the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze. I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.*”

Even though the church gave evidence of divine love, Jesus says Revelation 2:20-21 “*Yet I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and by her teaching leads astray My servants, so that they commit fornication and eat what has been sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent, but she is determined not to repent of her fornication.*”

The result of not *abiding in Christ*, and not *trusting God in faith*, is serious. Revelation 2:22-23 “*I am about to cast her upon a bed of sickness, and I will severely afflict those who commit adultery with her, unless they repent of conduct such as hers. Her children too shall surely die; and all the Churches shall come to know that I am He who searches into men's inmost thoughts; and to each of you I will give a requital which shall be in accordance with what your conduct has been.*” Hebrews 4:13 “*Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight.*”

Many attitudes and activities are *forbidden* in God's Word, so we should *ask* God every day to reveal any hidden sins or wrong attitudes in our heart. We must maintain a position of *trust* on the Atonement of Christ, so we can be *free* from wrong attitudes, worldly ways, or unscriptural decisions. Jeremiah 17:10 “*I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man*

according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

For those who were *not* misled by false teaching, Jesus says Revelation 2:24-25 “*Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. But hold fast what you have till I come.*” We are responsible to *hold to God's Truth*—to Matthew 3:8 “*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*”

Matthew 5:20, “*Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*” They looked religious on the outside but were *not trusting God on the inside*. Matthew 15:7-8 “*You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'*” It is serious to just *talk* religion, but *not live* by faith in God.

Jesus said it would be *well* for the faithful and obedient, but *dreadful* for the unfaithful and disobedient. The penalty is severe: Matthew 24:51 “*He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*” 1 John 1:9 “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.*”

Abiding in Christ means we have *repented, confessed, and forsaken* our sins. The Author of our salvation stated Matthew 5:21-22 “*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.*”

If we have resentment toward *anyone*, we are told to—Matthew 5:24 “*Leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.*” Anger, revenge, or resentment in our heart must be *removed* and *forgiven*—by *repenting*. Matthew 6:15 “*If you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*”

Jesus explained what *our attitude* must be. Matthew 5:43-45 “*You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*”

No one could really *love* their enemies, or actually *pray* for their persecutors, unless God *enabled* them to do that by His Spirit. When God *inspires* us to pray for those who hurt us, we become His child. Matthew 5:46 “*If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?*”

Unbelievers have no problem loving those who like them. Jesus said even sinners are cordial to sinners—if they are friendly and kind, but *believers* are to be friendly, cordial, and forgiving of those who *wrong* them and *hurt* them—we are to *pray* for those who have an attitude toward us.

Only the Spirit of God can inspire us to *repent* of wrong attitudes; to get rid of resentment; and to *pray* for enemies. *That is abiding in Christ*; and *that is waiting* for the Rapture!



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