



THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
Living Faith Chapel, Calgary

Bible Study

October 20, 2015

Theme: Fruitfulness

Topic: **ABIDDING – A KEY TO FUITHFULNESS**

Text: **John 15: 1-12**

Introduction: We will commence this study by looking at the common meanings of abiding.

(1). To Live With or Stand With and unite. (2). To dwell, To reside, To continue in a particular condition, attitude or relationship. (3). To Obey, Observe, Hold to, Act in Accordance with, To Remain.

1. Connection (To Live With or Stand With and unite):

Abiding in Jesus first of all means having a life-giving connection to him. A branch is connected to the vine, and a vine to the branch. This is a mutual connection and union unlike baby in the womb of the mother. The connection here is based on IF and only IF...we abide in him and he will abide in us (John 15:4). If there is no connection, there is no life, no fruit. **Amos 3:3, Ephesians 2:4-7.**

2. Dependence (To dwell, To reside): Luke 24:49, Isaiah 40:31, John 15:5 and Phil 4:13

But abiding also implies dependence. This aspect of abiding, unlike connection, is not reciprocal. The branch is dependent on the vine, but the vine is not dependent on the branch. The branch derives its life and power from the vine. Without the vine, the branch is useless, lifeless, and powerless. Sap flows from the vine to the branch, supplying it with water, minerals, and nutrients that make it grow. And believers receive the “nutrients” of Christ’s grace through our life-giving connection to him. We are completely dependent upon Jesus for everything that counts as spiritual fruit. Apart from him, we can do nothing. Act 17:28...In Him we live..move and have our being.

3. Continuance (To Obey, Observe, Hold on to, Act in Accordance with, To Remain) John 1:38-39

Abiding also involves continuance. That is to remain, or stay, or continue. This simply means that we go on trusting, that we keep on depending, that we never stop believing. To abide in Jesus is to persevere in Jesus and his teaching. This is what Jesus is talking about in **John 8:31-32**, when he says, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

BENEFITS OF ABIDING IN CHRIST:

- 1) You will become more fruitful: **John 15: verses 2 and 8**
- 2) Your joy may be full. Verse 11
- 3) You can become His Friend: You can experience the sweetness, power, and joy of your connection to him in greater degrees, as you grow in ongoing daily dependence on him. In theological terms, all believers have union with Christ, but all believers can also know communion with him in greater (or lesser) degrees.

HOW DO YOU ABIDE? Verses 7, 9-10.

It just means keeping the words of Jesus in our hearts and minds, so that they are renewing and reviving us, shaping and sanctifying us, filling and forming us. And it means keeping ourselves in his infinite, enduring, sin-bearing, heart-conquering, life-giving love.

In summary, to abide in the vine means to be united to Jesus (connection), to rely on Jesus (dependence), and to remain in Jesus.