

a·bide

/ə'baɪd/(verb)

When Jesus walked on this earth, he called to His disciples, “Follow Me.” He taught the truth about God, His Word and of the unity of the Father, Son and Spirit. He lived as the Son of God, thereby demonstrating to us how to do the same. When the time came for Him to depart from His physical life, Jesus wanted to assure His followers of their eternal relationship with Him. It was then that he said, “Abide in Me.” Many of us struggle to wrap our minds around what Jesus meant, and what this kind of relationship looks like practically. To make this concept clearer to us, Jesus shared the parable of the Vine and the Branches.

What does the word abide mean? _____

read: John 14:25-27 | John 16:5-8 | 1 Corinthians 2:13-16

What is the role of the “Helper?” _____

Jesus knew the disciples were about to experience confusion, terror and grief in the loss of their Savior. He understood that these concepts were difficult for them to grasp; as it would also be for us.

read: John 15:1-5

In these verses, we are introduced to the “characters” of this passage. Which character in the parable is represented by the following?

Gardener _____ Vine _____ Fruitful Branch _____ Unfruitful Branch _____

Consider gardening in your own back yard. Describe in your own words how you see the relationship of:

A vine to its branches _____

A vine to the Gardener _____

A Gardener to the branches _____

What does this parable tell us is required to ensure that a vine will bear fruit abundantly? _____

By what power source are we able to experience unity/oneness with God? _____

As you consider the parable, where do you see yourself in terms of an 'abiding' relationship with Christ?

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| _____ This is new to me. I'm unsure. | _____ In the vine, but dormant. I don't feel anything. |
| _____ Disconnected. Distant from God. | _____ In the vine, growing and blooming with fruit. |
| _____ In the vine, starting to bear fruit. | _____ In the vine. Broken. Confused. Being Pruned. |

There is the person that we are and the person we long to be. Write a few words to further explain why you chose the position in the parable above and what your heart longs for most right now?

Regardless of what season you find yourself in, remember that Christ desires to have a relationship with us more than we do with Him. He will provide all the help you need if you earnestly seek Him.

Jesus is clear that if we don't remain in Him, we can do nothing. Yet in Him, we can do anything.

What do these words mean to you personally? _____

prayer for the week:

*Lord Jesus, please open my mind to understand this illustration that You are the True Vine.
Reveal the truth about Yourself to me.
During the coming days and weeks, help me to understand
how I can have an abiding relationship with you that produces spiritual fruit.
Amen.*

go deeper on your own:

read: 1 John 3:24 | Romans 12:2 | Hebrews 3:14 | James 4:7- 8a

As you reflect on the scriptures above and the others we have studied this week, how can we begin to abide in Christ? Grow? Deepen our relationship with Him if not by our own efforts?

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