

Abiding in Christ Daily

Dylan Davis, 08/31/2025

Definition: Abiding in Christ = daily habits, lifestyle, and spiritual state that reflect we are children of God living with Him as Lord

A Preface on "Christianese"

Two common reactions to using spiritual language:

1. **Cynical group** - finds language hollow, tunes out
2. **Overusing group** - assumes everyone understands

Challenge: First group, seek to understand. Second group, communicate clearly. Both show grace.

The Problem: Missing Out on Closeness with Christ

Key Scripture - John 15:5-6

"I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me."

How many days do we get to bed realizing "I barely acknowledged God today"?

We settle for shallow relationship to keep one foot in the world - but that's not God's design.

Jesus' Vision for Unity

Key Scripture - John 17:20-26 (Jesus' prayer for us)

- Jesus prayed for complete oneness between us and God
- We live FROM oneness with the Father outward to the world
- We're already seated in heavenly places (Paul)

Questions to Consider:

- Are we experiencing relationship with God as the Bible describes?
- Do our lives show we are one with God?
- Is it clear we're not of this world?
- Are we hearing from God?
- Are we effective ambassadors?

The Key: Awe of God

Root Issue: Lack of awe of who God is - His goodness, mercy, love

When we behold Him through Scripture, worship, and prayer, we naturally respond in awe. This sparks desire to be nearer to Him.

Learning from Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 19:24-30)

The Story:

- Stayed loyal during David's exile
- Mourned 1-3 months in solidarity
- Was slandered by his servant Ziba
- **His Response:** "Let Ziba take it all! I'm just glad to be in the king's presence"

The Lesson: He valued being in the king's presence more than anything the king could give him. This led him to draw near and seek to please the king, and his heart became aligned with the king's will.

When Our Hearts Align with God, We Hear Him

Key Insight: We're more likely to hear God when we're concerned with His mission more than what He can do for us.

God tends to speak more about others than our own well-being

God is Others-Centered - Even the Trinity is each member lavishing love on one another

Practical Steps

Start with questions:

- Who in my life do you want to use me to minister to?
- How can I bring you glory?
- Do you want me to step into this ministry?
- What do I need to give up to do what you've called me to do?

Make space for God to respond - Don't just unload and leave

Sometimes we don't hear God because we are too scared to ask Him questions that we know he will answer:

- Do you want me to step into this ministry?
- Do you want me to pay for this person's groceries?
- What do I need to give up in order to do what you've called me to do?

The Obstacle: Sin Separates Us from God

Sin is broader than "the classics" that our mind sometimes goes to when we hear phrases like "struggling with sin."

- **Idolatry:** Trusting bank balance more than God's provision
- **Envy:** Resenting others' blessings instead of rejoicing
- **Gluttony:** Using food/entertainment/etc. to seek comfort apart from God
- **Vanity:** Caring more about social status than serving
- **Selfishness:** Avoiding sacrifice for God's work

The Good News: Christ's Eager Forgiveness

Quote from Dane Ortlund:

"When Jesus Christ sees the fallenness of the world all about him, his deepest impulse, his most natural instinct, is to move toward that sin and suffering, not away from it."

Application

For Non-Believers: This relationship with God is what you're missing - so much more than Sunday church

For Believers:

1. **Repent** - Don't downplay sin as "areas for improvement"
2. **Receive Grace** - Christ delights when we come for forgiveness
3. **Disconnect from worldly distractions**

Remember: Christ is eager to forgive and restore. Don't resent the gift of union with Him.