

## ABIDE IN ME

### **Psalm 91:1 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty."**

I talked last month about God's will being done on earth as it is in heaven by being doers of His Word and not hearers only, and by seeking God and His righteousness thus abiding in Christ Jesus. In John 15:7, Jesus reveals a simple yet challenging truth. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you."

But what does it really mean to "abide" in Jesus? If we look at the meaning of this word in the original languages we will begin to understand the depth Jesus speaks of when He talks about abiding in Him. Abide means to sit down and dwell with someone or something, or to remain, settle, and inhabit. It intimates the idea of permanence, continuance, and a willingness to tarry. It also implies to stay in a given place or in a given state of expectancy. What a wonderful privilege we have to abide in our Lord and Savior and to dwell in the shelter of the Most High God. Notice however that we can choose not to abide. That is why Jesus says "if" in John 15, and why Psalm 91 says "he who dwells", knowing there will be those who choose not to dwell and therefore will not abide. Scripture gives us at least sixteen exhortations to tarry and abide in God with countless other references, warnings, and invitations to remain in Christ.

It is in this state of abiding we will find ourselves longing for intimate times of fellowship with God. When we fellowship and wait before God we receive guidance and direction to move out according to His will. Out of this comes a vibrant prayer life and a strong desire to see His will done on earth as it is in heaven. In John 5:19 Jesus gave this response to the Jews who sought to kill Him because He had broke the Sabbath and said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself, He can only do what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."

Out of abiding comes the doing, and because by definition abiding is a continual state of being, we will see Father doing many things and we will do those same things if we abide in Him. John 15: 4-8 gives us more revelation as to the result of abiding in Christ. "Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

Once we abide in Jesus we grow accustomed to having communion with Him continually. We long for times alone with Him and we love to bring our Father the glory that is His alone. The blessings, shelter, and fruit bearing that come from abiding in Jesus is more than we could possibly imagine. We will be thrust forward and outward in love, grace, and mercy with the same longings and passion that God has for the people He created. We will long to know God more and like Jesus, we will get alone with Father, feel His heart, and do what He needs us to do in our lives and those around us. May you be blessed in special ways as you abide in Jesus! Next month we will discover more about who and what abides in us as children of God.

**Psalm 15 "Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; In whose eyes a vile person is despised, but he honors those who fear the Lord; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; He who does not put out his money at usury, nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved."**

