



## The Significance of Abiding | Application

 **ACTION:** To become increasingly purposeful in your preparation to disciple others, ask God to enable you to clearly **understand** His Word and to **implement** His truth in practical ways in your daily life.


Because the making of disciples is God's idea and His work, it is vital that we learn to rely fully on the Lord to accomplish His will in us. This is achieved by developing and maintaining an intimate, abiding relationship with Christ. As we have learned, a believer abides in Jesus both through meditating on God's Word and through continual communication with Him.


As we grow in our knowledge of Scripture and dependence on the Holy Spirit, we will become increasingly equipped to know when and in what manner to best apply truth in the lives of those we disciple.

 **READ: Exodus 33:12-17**


 **WRITE:** What distinguishes disciples of Jesus from all other people on the face of the earth? (v. 14)

Moses recognized his God-appointed task and realized that he could not accomplish God's will without help.

 **THOUGHT PROVOKING:** The supernatural presence of God's indwelling Spirit enables believers to fully accomplish His will. Because the work is God's, He receives the glory.


 When a believer chooses to strive through his own efforts, apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, he falls short of God's will. As a result, the opportunity to honor God is lost.


Verse 14 tells us that God provided Moses with His presence accompanied by rest. One way a believer can be assured He is abiding in God's presence, regardless of the circumstance, is the experience of God's rest or peace.


 Does your lifestyle reflect one of genuine rest and peace regardless of the situation or circumstance?


 **Reread Exodus 33:15-16**

 Moses longed to be constantly in God's presence. Why?


 What would influence believers today to operate outside the presence of God?

 **John 15:5; Luke 1:37**

 **REMEMBER:** Apart from Christ our lives will fail to produce spiritual fruit. Yet with Him nothing is impossible.

 **Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5** Read with the following questions in mind:

 Why is abiding in Christ essential to effective disciple making?

 How would you explain to others the benefits of abiding in Jesus?

 **Proverbs 3:5-6, 18:15**

Throughout the Bible, God invites us to pursue His will. This takes intentionality.


- We decide to **lay down** our own desires to seek His.
- We **give up** our selfish way of doing things for God's perfect way.
- We **let go** of our own agenda in pursuit of God's plan.

In doing so, we are preparing our hearts and minds to not only **hear** what the Lord has to say to us but to **receive** what is said. The next step is to **abide** with God through conversation.


 **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

The apostle Paul understood that communication was vital to having an intimate relationship with Jesus. As with other relationships, good communication develops as a result of both talking and listening.

 Begin to develop a lifestyle that has continuous, open-ended conversation with God.

 **Psalm 5:3, 46:10; Luke 5:16**


The enemy will use distractions to prevent us from hearing, understanding, and fulfilling God's purpose in our lives. Therefore, it's essential that we learn to consistently quiet our minds and even physically remove ourselves from potentially distracting noise and activity to avail ourselves to God's presence.

 Practicing the following disciplines will help you learn to abide with Jesus, moment by moment, throughout each day:

- Before you get out of bed, acknowledge God's presence and ask Him to make you sensitive to His leading throughout the day. This will aid in centering immediate focus on the Lord.
- Spend time, even if it is brief, in God's Word. Ask the Lord to reveal Himself to you as you read.
- Although you may have a daily routine, commit your schedule to His care, trusting that His plans are best.
- Ask God to enable you to be flexible, open, and available to what He desires to accomplish through you.
- Communicate with Him, sharing openly those thoughts and concerns that are on your heart and mind.
- Post Bible verses in prominent places throughout your environment (bathroom mirror, refrigerator door, computer, etc.) to prompt you to meditate on and memorize God's Word.
- Ask God to show you moments throughout the day to spend in prayer and meditation. Then, be careful to avoid filling these moments with other activity.

- Even though God continually makes Himself available to us, He will not vie for our attention. Avail yourself to God's presence by consistently turning off electronic devices.


Abiding in Christ provides us immediate access to His presence, wisdom, discernment, strength, etc. When we fail to abide in Christ, there is a spiritual disconnect in our thinking, our behavior, and the equipping power of the Holy Spirit.


 What habits or daily disciplines will you begin developing to ensure an intimate, abiding relationship with Jesus?


(Perhaps your employment requires using a cell phone that typically rings throughout the day. Maybe you are a parent of young children whose household experiences little quiet. Regardless of your situation, trust God to develop within you a deep, abiding relationship with Him.)


### 1 Kings 3:7-9

Consider for a moment the life of Solomon. Although God had appointed him as king, Solomon acknowledged that he was uncertain about carrying out such a great task. Solomon could have asked for anything, but he most valued discernment. Even though Solomon had been taught right from wrong, he needed God's wisdom to be able to distinguish the Lord's will for His people.

 **FISHING FOR MEN:** God has appointed us to make disciples of others. And, even though we have His Word to help us distinguish right from wrong, we also need His wisdom and discernment to know how to best assist others. As we depend on the Holy Spirit through abiding prayer, He will show us what to do and say.

 As you strive to abide with Christ by walking in His truth and acting under His guidance and authority, He will provide you with personal opportunities to influence others for His kingdom. Relying on godly wisdom and discernment, in these moments, will provide you with confidence in Jesus and peace in His provision.

 What difference might developing greater personal dependence on God make in the lives of those you encounter? (Be specific.)

 As you practice this week being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and His leading, respond by being immediately obedient to what He shows you.

### John 15:8

By choosing to abide in Christ Jesus and relying fully on His provision, we best represent Him to those around us.

### 1 Corinthians 15:56-58

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (any victory we experience is only through Christ). Therefore (as a result of who God is, the truth of His character), my dear brothers (fellow believers, disciples of Jesus), stand firm. Let nothing move you (don't be moved*

**by doubt, weakness, fear, what others think of you, etc. Don't let anything move you from what the Lord desires to accomplish in you!** *Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord (achieving His will, His way), because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. (emphasis added)*

➡ As we set forth to fulfill God's desire for us to make disciples, firmly set your mind on Him, becoming fully resolved to do His will. There may be times when you wonder whether or not you are being effective or if what you are doing is fulfilling God's purpose. In these times focus on the truth of God's Word. Because of the unlimited ability of Christ at work in the life of each believer, when we intentionally rely on His strength to accomplish what He asks according to His will, we can stand firm on the promise that our labor will not be in vain!

 **Colossians 3:23**

- ✦ In response to our precious Lord, become determined today to do His work as an offering to Him rather than working merely for people.
- ✦ Abide in Jesus—depending fully on Him rather than on self or others.
- ✦ **TO ENCOURAGE:** And **God is able** to make all grace abound to you, so that in **all** things at **all** times, having **all** that you need, you will abound in every good work. (**2 Corinthians 9:8**)