**Abiding in Christ, Pt 1**

*John 15:4-11*

**Context**

There is no greater question that needs to be asked and answered for every person than that of salvation. What is genuine salvation? How does one know that they have eternal life? What does it mean to be a Christian?

In this section of scripture, Jesus give a very clear word picture for His disciples (and us) to understand what it means to genuinely know we are in the faith. There is an unmistakable necessary connection to Christ and through that attachment, there is spiritual fruit that is produced. With or without it, you will be known.

**The setting:** Thursday night of Passion Week @ the Passover (Lord’s Supper); He will be killed the next day.

**The word picture:**

1. **Vine**—Jesus (**vv 1, 5**), the source of life for the branches
2. **Vine Dresser**—The Father (**v 1**), prunes branches to bear more fruit
3. **Branches**—“you” (the Apostles) (**v 5**)
	1. Fruit bearing (**vv 2, 5, 8**), abiding in Jesus, His love, and His word
	2. Non-fruit bearing (**vv 2, 6**), that are cut off, dried up, and burned

We certainly would identify people who would be connected to Jesus is some superficial way (i.e. their words, church attendance, and in some cases, their self-serving deeds) but the veracity of their claim would be challenged with a lack of true spiritual fruit. Sadly, there will always be false Christians/disciples (Judas is the classic architype). The defining characteristic identified here:

**John 15:4***—Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

**Abide** (*men)—to* stay, remain, don’t leave, don’t go, don’t depart.

It has the idea of an overcomer, or to remain faithful, continue to persevere, continue to believe…Don’t depart, don’t defect, don’t apostasies.

**1 John 2:19***—They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that [*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+jn+2&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-30570d)*]it would be shown that they all are not of us.*

**Hebrews 10:29***—How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?*

**John 6:66***—As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore.*

6 Promises to those who abide

1. **Salvation**

(AKA: Eternal Life, Regeneration, Born Again, Born from Above, Justification, the work of Christ on our behalf; freely given—not earned—by faith alone; “Positional Truth”; Indicatives)

***John 3:16***—*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

**John 14:6**—*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

1. Eternal Life IS the life of God. You get HIM!
2. Therefore, salvation is the eternal life of God IN YOU

	* 1. One cannot separate the eternal life from the God who is eternal life
		2. **v4**— Abide in Me, and I in you….
		3. **v5**—… he who abides in Me and I in him

**John 14:16**—*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever*

* + 1. of God from Christ is the vine
		2. He is God incarnate and the source of spiritual life

**2 Corinthians 4:9-10***—we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing;****9****persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed;****10****always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.*

**1 John 4:12-15***—No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.****13****By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.****14****We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.* ***15****Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

**1 John 5:11-12***—And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.* ***12****He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*

**1 Peter 1:7***—so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ*

1. **Fruitfulness**

(AKA: Sanctification, or “Progressive” Sanctification, Righteousness, Holiness, Separated from sin; “Practical Truth”; doing what God commands; Obedience to the Scriptures; Imperatives—commands; Walking in step with the Spirit; Bearing Fruit by Abiding; the indwelling divine nature of God being manifested by your righteousness)

**John 15:4***—Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.*

1. One must be connected to the vine in order to bear fruit
	* 1. Negative, v4
		2. Positive, v5
		3. Negative, v5 (end)
2. Fruit is the evidence that you are a disciple

 **John 15:8***—My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

1. Progression: Fruit (v4)🡪 more fruit (v2)🡪 much fruit (v5,8)

**Colossians 1:5-6***—because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel****6****which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;*

**Philippians 3:12-14***—Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.****13****Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,****14****I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

* + 1. Only as you abide in Him can you bear much fruit
		2. Apart from Him, you can do nothing

**Philippians 1:11***—having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

**Romans 6:22***—But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life (NKJ)*

**James 3:17***—But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.*

**2 Corinthians 9:10***—Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness*

**Colossians 1:10***—so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God*

**Ephesians 5:9***—(for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth)*

**Hebrews 12:11***—All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

1. Characters of genuine fruit
	* 1. True repentance
			+ 1. Worldly sorrow
				2. Godly sorrow

**Matthew 3:8***—Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance*

**2 Corinthians 7:9-10***—I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made sorrowful to the point of repentance; for you were made sorrowful according to the will of God, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.****10****For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

* + 1. Godly attitudes

**Galatians 5:22-23**—*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,****23****gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

* + 1. Genuine worship (true praise)

**Hebrews 13:15**—*Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that****give thanks*** *to His name.*

**Hosea 14:1-2—** *Return, O Israel, to the Lord your God, For you have stumbled because of your iniquity.* ***2****Take words with you and return to the Lord. Say to Him, “Take away all iniquity And receive us graciously, That we may present the fruit of our lips.*

*give thanks* (homologe)—to speak; to say the same thing

* + - * 1. Saying the same thing back to God
				2. Regarding His Person, His Nature, His Works
		1. Sincere giver

**Philippians 4:16-17**—*for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.****17****Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.*

**Romans 15:26**—*For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.*

* + 1. Words that edify or build up

**1 Corinthians 14:13**—*Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.*

**Ephesians 4:29**—*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.*

* + 1. Righteous living

**Philippians 1:11**—***…****having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

**Colossians 1:9-10**—*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,****10****so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God*

**Hebrews 12:11**—*All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.*

* + 1. Present the gospel to the lost

**Romans 1:13***—I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.*

**Romans 15:18***—For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,*

**1 Corinthians 16:15***—Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints*

1. **Answered prayer**

**John 15:8**—*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

1. **The Father is gloried when you bear fruit**

**John 15:8**—*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.*

1. **Love**

**John 15:9-10**— *Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love.****10****If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.*

**John 14:15**—*If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

**John 14:21**—*He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”*

1. **Joy**

***John 15:11***—*These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.*

***John 16:22***—*Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.*

***1 John 1:4***—*These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.*

**Conclusion**

The obvious conclusion is the test yourself to see if you are in the faith. If you are not, then do not delay in responding the gospel plea. If you are, then continue to abide in Him—remain! And bear much fruit for the kingdom for His name sake.

**2 Corinthians 13:5***—Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you [*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+cor+13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-29049e)*]fail the test?*