**Abiding in Christ, Pt 2**

*John 15:4-11*

**Context**

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 gives a very clear word picture for His disciples (and us) to understand what it means to genuinely know we are in the faith.

**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 in 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 archetype).

**Abide** (*meno)—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 apostatize.

**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 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 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. **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
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)
	* 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.*

1. Characteristics 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

**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. Bring people to Christ

**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 15:7***—If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

**John 14:13***—Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*

Closing your prayer: “in Jesus’ name” isn’t the magic ticket to your wildest dreams

**John 16:23**—*In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you.*

**John 16:26**—*In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf;*

**2 Corinthians 2:16**—*to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?*

**1 John 3:22**—*and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.*

**Jude 20**—*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit*

**Romans 8:26-27**—*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;****27****and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

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. The hardworking vinedresser finds great joy in the fruitful vine
		2. The explanation of the life of the believer isn’t in himself, it’s in God. It is God in him that provides the only explanation.

**2 Peter 1:4-10**—For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. **5**Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, **6**and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, *perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness,****7****and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, love.****8****For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.* ***9****For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.****10****Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble*

**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. **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.*

**Jude 21**—keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

**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.”*

**John 15:10**—*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 17:25-26***—*“O righteous Father, [[i](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jn+17&version=NASB1995" \l "fen-NASB1995-26785i" \o "See footnote i)]although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;****26****and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

***John 13:1***—*Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them [*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=jn+13&version=NASB1995#fen-NASB1995-26632a)*]to the end.*

***Romans 8:37-39***—*But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.****38****For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,****39****nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

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 to test yourself to see if you are in the faith. If you are not, then do not delay in responding to the gospel plea. If you are, then continue to abide in Him—remain! And bear much fruit for the kingdom—all for the glory of God!

**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 fail the test?*