



LifeSpot ... Abide in Christ

Life in Christ

“Abide in me.” Three words from Jesus that change everything. The word “abide” means continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, or tarry. Are you present in Christ this moment? In the rush of your life, will you tarry in him today? Do you see yourself standing in him and going on to live in him for the rest of your days? Someone asked Hudson Taylor (missionary to China), “Are you always conscious of abiding in Christ?” “While sleeping last night,” he replied, “did I cease to abide in your house because I was unconscious of the fact? We should never be conscious of *not* abiding in Christ.” Worth thinking about.

Christ in you

“Abide in me,” said Jesus, “and I in you.” The second part may be more important than the first. I can live in Christ only because he declares to me, “Dear child, I am living in you.” Hudson Taylor (missionary to China) came close to suicide because he felt he was not Christ-like enough. Then his life was changed through a book entitled *Christ Is All*. Hudson’s conclusion: “I have striven in vain to abide in Him. I’ll strive no more. Has He not promised He will abide with me? ... Oh, to understand that makes all the worries fall away.” Today, will you stop trying to be Christ-like enough, and instead consciously visualize Christ living in you? Then see those worries fall away.

The secret of fruit

“Abide in me and I in you,” said Jesus, “and you will bear much fruit.” Abiding in the world doesn’t do it. Abiding in the church is a good choice, but falls short. Only when I am a personal branch on the vine of Christ, will the fruit come. “Get rightly related to Jesus Christ,” said chaplain Oswald Chambers, “and he will make you of use unconsciously every minute you live.” Much fruit will be unconscious, though some will be intentional. On a trip in 1907, Oswald Chambers spoke about spiritual things with every one of the 1,300 people on board the ship, from the captain to the boy in the stoke-hold. This is fruitfulness, and it comes from abiding in Christ.

A blank cheque

When teaching about the vine and the branches, Jesus gave this profound guarantee—“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” This is not a stand-alone promise—it is a stand-in-Christ promise. Think about it. When you abide in Christ and are at peace with him, you can ask anything in union with him, and he will give it to you. He gives you a blank cheque drawn on the Bank of Heaven, signed with his name. E M Bounds expressed it this way: “Prayer has all the force of God in it. . . . He actually places himself at the command of praying preachers and a praying church.” So church, let’s pray!