

Secret Of Power in Prayer

John 15:7



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FOCAL Read TOGETHER John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

When the fisherman finds a productive lake or stream where the fish always bite, he does not become bored with that location. Here is where sustenance is. Here is where the fish are. No, the good fisherman doesn't want to go to a different place “just because”, but is willing to return to that same area again and again. Why? Because quite simply, he wants fish.

Everyone is a fisherman at heart. Everyone wanders from hill to valley in this life fishing for happiness. We throw out our line of faith and our hook of hope in first one thing then the other. We believe that we can find happiness in a certain business or in a certain behavior or in a certain ritual. In time the wise fisherman realizes that he is dragging in more garbage - old tires, hubcaps, fenders, weeds, waterlogged wood – and very rarely does he find the tiniest sliver of a fish called happiness. If you are saved by the Grace of God then you were saved the day you stopped listening to the world and its recommendations. On that day you cast your line of hope into Jesus, believing that He gave Himself for you. You found the wonderful joy of salvation by believing on Him (**Romans 10:9-10**). You were saved by Grace.

Grace saves the believer, and all believers are saved by an equal measure of grace. Yet

Once we come to Christ by faith we must purpose in

our hearts to abide in Him, else we will never fully enjoy all the benefits of our salvation.

The Bible teaches that we are to “**grow in grace, and [in] the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)**”. The gifts of Grace are not enjoyed all at once by the believer. Unless you learn to **abide in that union which saved you** you will not receive all that God has for you as His people. We read in another place:

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

We do not know the truth all at once – nor do we enjoy the power of God that is promised us at the point of New Birth. We learn truth by abiding in Christ's Word. We become free when, through abiding, we learn His truths. **Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free** is *future tense* – though these Jews **believed on Him** (*past tense*).

Perseverance in Grace, abiding in Christ is an educational process wherein God is the Tutor and we the students. The reason that many who profess Christ as Savior today are weak as dishwater is because they will not practice abiding in Him.

There are some who misquote the text of:

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ:

and say “God has given us all we need of should hope to get at the point of salvation. There is no deeper blessing and no deeper life for the Christian.” The Scripture disagrees. Jesus said “**If you abide in Me**”. There are degrees of attainment among believers. When we first meet Jesus He tells us “**Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men**” (**Matthew 4:19**). We follow Him to the Cross and to the empty tomb. We believe on Him unto salvation. It is not until we increase in our knowledge of Him by abiding in Him that we come to appreciate His power in our lives.

Illustrate Look at Peter to see the principle of abiding in Christ. When Christ said “**Follow Me**” Peter left his nets and followed the Lord. Peter watched Jesus heal person after person. Peter's own **mother in law (Matthew 8:14)** was healed before his own eyes. Peter took heed. In the midst of the storm **Peter asked Jesus if he could join Him in walking on water (Matthew 14:28)**. Peter walked on water as long as his eyes were on the Lord. Only by abiding in Christ did Peter ever **understand that Jesus alone is the Christ (Matthew 16:16)**. Yet the same Peter, blessed just moments before, finds himself in league with Satan when he tries to keep Jesus from going to the Cross (**Matthew 16:22**). Abiding in Christ Peter

became like Christ. Abiding in self, apart from Christ, Peter became weak and cowardly – a milk maiden made him curse God. Your success or failure as a Christian is directly related to your willingness to **abide in Christ**.

Here Is A Special Blessing Promised By Jesus

FOCAL John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ye shall ask** what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Just a few verses before this text our Lord warned us that “**without me ye can do nothing**”. (John 15:5) We now expect the Lord to say “**if you abide in Me, you can do all things**”, yet He doesn't say that. Jesus doesn't talk about enabling us to do anything *but pray*. Jesus says **ye shall ask what ye will**.

Those who abide in Christ *are focused on prayer*.
Those who abide in anything *but Christ are not focused on prayer*.

Prayer is the natural outpouring of the soul in communion with Christ. Prayer is the natural inhale and exhale of the new creature in Christ.

We read in a certain place:

Luke 11:1 And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, **Lord, teach us to pray,**

as John also taught his disciples.

The disciple *abiding in Christ* wants the Lord to teach him how to pray. The branch in union with the Vine does not feel effort when it produces leaves and fruit. The leaf and fruit quite naturally come out of the branch in union with its Vine. Souls in union with Christ **shall ask what they will and it shall be done unto them**.

The abider in Christ does not ask the Lord only when need arises. The child speaks to its Parent even when no need is evident. The bride speaks to her Husband at all times because He is on her mind.

Those who abide in Christ, like the Psalmist say:

Psalms 139:17-18 **How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! (18) [If] I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.**

Those who will not abide in Christ shall not ask, but those who abide in Christ will ask and *must ask*. **He that knows Christ best knows himself to be weak and needy**.

Be suspicious of the person who says “I have now arrived” or “I am now all I need to be in Christ”. This is no abider in Christ – he abides in that which is found on the ground of every pasture where cattle lo.

Paul abiding in Christ declared himself **the chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)**. When we abide in Jesus we feel compelled to pray, *for our sins are the darker when we see them in the light that is Christ.*

When we abide in Christ we feel compelled to pray, *for our weaknesses are greater in comparison to His omnipotence*. When we abide in Christ we must pray, *for we want our uncertainty to be consumed by the surety of Christ.*

FOCAL John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, **ye shall ask what ye will**, and it shall be done unto you.

Illustrate Have you ever went to pray and felt as if **the living waters in you would not flow? Your will was there, but the liberty of prayer was gone?** Then you need to abide in Christ. **He is the Sun Who will melt that icy unbelief.** Those who abide in Christ **may ask what they will**. Those in conscious union with Jesus **come to Christ readily, for that person is already IN CHRIST**. God is not far away while you are abiding in Christ – He is closer to you than a brother. I saw a t-shirt years ago that had a man running away from God on it. Underneath was the caption, “If you feel that God is far away, then guess – WHO MOVED”. Jesus has promised:

Hebrews 13:5 ... **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**

When we abide in Christ the Lord said **ye may ask what ye will** – you have *liberty to ask all things*. The Lord also said **and it shall be done unto you** – answered prayer comes to those who abide in Christ. The branch merely abides in the vine, and in due season fruit comes from it.

Too often when prayer is not swiftly answered we begin to run to and fro, looking to *force an answer from God*. Yet this is not what Jesus would have us do. He says **abide – ask – and it shall be done unto you.**

We are told elsewhere in Scripture:

Proverbs 10:24 **The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.**

God loves to answer the prayers of His dear children! What does He want of us? **Abide in Christ, delight yourself in Him.** As we are told:

Psalms 37:3-5 **Trust in the LORD**, and do good; [so] shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. (4) **Delight thyself also in the LORD**; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. (5) **Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring [it] to pass.**

Abiding in Christ means to **trust Him, to believe that the Vine can and will hold the Branch.** You trust your chair, trust the floor, trust your car, trust your bank, trust your doctor – yet none of these can **give you the desires of your heart.**

Only those who **trust the Lord, delight in the Lord, and commit their way unto Him** can expect to receive of the Lord. Those who fail to abide in Christ have *little faith*. The Lord tells those who have little faith:

James 1:6-7 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Though little faith will bring a soul to Heaven, only *great faith will bring Heaven to the soul.* Those who abide in Christ are the children who have learned to walk.

They took their first tottering steps when they accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, but did not stop at that point. **They asked, and kept on asking. They learned what the Scripture meant when it said:**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice evermore. (17)

Pray without ceasing. (18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

This is a **Heavenly Oreo Cookie!** The top layer rejoicing, the bottom layer thanking God in all things – the center of it all unceasing prayer.

Unceasing prayer is only possible for those who abide in the Vine **rejoicing evermore**, believing that He is in control no matter what the weather. Unceasing prayer is only possible for those who abide in Christ, for only they **in every thing give thanks.** Not just in the good things, but *in the bad things as well. In every thing give thanks.*

This Special Blessing Can Only Be Obtained One Way

FOCAL John 15:7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, **and it shall be done unto you.**

The first step to victorious Christian living is to **abide in Christ.** We are to rest in Him, not in the things of this world. We are to rest in Him, not in our own abilities. The Bible tells us:

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Illustrate We have a tendency to *believe in ourselves or in our own abilities* – yet this is the way of the fool. An eagle lands on a block of ice slowly drifting down the river. The eagle is looking for fish, and, believing his footing to be secure, he ignores the fact that the ice is drifting toward a waterfall. Slowly the fall gets closer and closer. Destruction is looming. The eagle, confident that its wings will carry him from danger, waits until the ice is on the brink of disaster. He spreads his wings, seeking to fly upward – but his feet are frozen to the block of ice. His death comes because he ignored the cry of the water. His death comes because he put too much confidence in his own abilities.

So it is with the foolish among us.

Note again the Words of Christ:

FOCAL John 15:7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

This is a *two headed coin* that our Lord has given us – **abide in Me, and My words abide in you. We do not abide in the words and opinions of other people.**

Illustrate There are many preachers in the world today who will give you their opinion as to what Christ has said. Many of these preachers in arrogance believe themselves to be advisors to God. May I say that God has no need of advisors, no need of counselors, no need

of Court Jesters, no need of Aarons. We **trust in His Word – His Word must abide in us.** We do not add to it, nor do we take away from it. We just believe it no matter what. We believe what Jesus has said and cling to His Words implicitly.

Consider the first Disciples of Christ. They heard Christ teaching daily – but His Word did not abide in them. How do we know this?

Watch them as they go with the Master to Gethsemane. They *were* with Jesus – but His Word was not abiding within them. Jesus said:

Matthew 26:38 ... My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Did they do this? No. They went to sleep. His Word was not abiding in them. They heard Him teach, heard His message of the Cross, and discounted that Word while they added their own spin to it. As a result none could tarry with Jesus as He went through the dark loneliness of Gethsemane.

His Words must abide in me. I cannot cast His Word away because some fool somewhere else once twisted that Word. I cannot – dare not – cast His Word away because I do not understand it. I must trust in Him.

Jesus' Word is often hard to understand – yet we need to

affirm with the early disciples that He alone has the Words of Life.

John 6:67-69 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (68) Then Simon Peter answered him, **Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.** (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

Illustrate If His Word does not abide in you, does not triumph over what your reason may say then you will never live victoriously in this present evil age. Our reason often tricks us. The devil – in the words of **R.G. Lee** “**always pays in counterfeit money**”. I am reminded of the little girl who was teaching her little dog tricks. Each time the dog would do what she asked she would give him a doggy treat. Noticing how eagerly her dog gobbled down the treats she began to examine them. They looked like cookies. She smelled them. They smelled like pork chops. So the little girl bit into one – and promptly spit it out! Making a face she told her little dog, “I should have known better, because I've seen you drink out of the toilet!” So it is with the devil's treats. We must reject the evil one's word. We must reject the hiss of the serpent. We are not the devil's dogs – we are Christ's Love. We are not to come and go, but **to abide in Christ and let His Word abide in us.** If someone tells you “this way is of Christ” then remember the Apostle's warning:

1 John 4:1 Beloved, **believe not every spirit,**

but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

I don't care if he or she is your friend, if their word does not match His Word then reject them. I don't care if they have a Master's Degree or a Doctorate, if their word is not His Word then reject it. I don't care if they are ordained or no, reverend or no, if their word is not His Word then reject them.

The devil pays in counterfeit money – do not be deceived.

Abide in Christ especially during your trials. Look at the parable our Lord spoke. He said:

John 15:2 **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:** and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Are you undergoing trial? Then ask yourselves “**am I bearing fruit for Christ? Am I doing what He has called me to do?**” Jesus never said a word that He did not mean. “**Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away**”. You live on this earth to bear fruit for the Master. You live on this earth to work for Him. If you are not **bearing fruit, then do not be surprised if He taketh you away.** Those who reject His Lordship in this life will be taken to the next life where they will

submit to that Lordship. He is Lord of all – period! Perhaps you have drifted from abiding in Christ. Perhaps your word abide in you more than His Word. Remember, the Vine bears the Branch. **God will not tolerate a rebel. Remember Moses who, striking the Rock that was Christ was told by God:**

Numbers 20:12 ... Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

God's people are to abide in Christ, and His Words must abide in them. If you have drawn away from Him, then return to Him. Begin to abide even in the midst of the trial. Trust Him. But also remember what Christ said:

John 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every [branch] that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Sometimes trials are not punishments, but **purgings to bring forth more fruit. Abide in Christ! Let His Word abide in you.** The Scripture tells us in another place:

1 Peter 1:6-7 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold

temptations: (7) That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Trials are not terrible when we **abide in Christ**. The waves do not seem so fearful to those on the boat **if Christ be on the boat with you**. Let your faith be child like. Trust Him, no matter what your senses may say. Walk as He says walk, do as He says do, believe as He says believe, love as He says love.

If Christ's words do not abide in you in *both* faith and practice then you are not abiding in Christ. One follows the other – **abide in Me and My words abide in you.** **C.H. Spurgeon** said:

Do you desire the grace of the Spirit? Go to your Lord's anointing. Do you seek holiness? Go to his example. Do you desire pardon of sin? Look to his blood. Do you need mortification of sin? Look to his crucifixion. Do you need to be buried to the world? Go to his tomb. Do you want to feel the fullness of a heavenly life? Behold. his resurrection. Would you rise above the world? Mark his ascension. Would you contemplate heavenly things? Remember his session at the right hand of God, and know that he" hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places."¹

¹ From *The Secret of Power In Prayer* preached January 8, 1888, at Metropolitan Tabernacle, Newington. Our sermon today is based on elements from this wondrous and Spirit Filled message.

Illustrate The power that the Christian has and possesses is found in direct proportion to how we abide in Christ. In the prison system there is a phrase for a person heading to execution, and that phrase is “dead man walking”. The person may be moving, but his condemnation and death is sure because he is on the pathway that leads to death. At the end of that green mile, that last mile, the criminal will be either injected or electrocuted or hung – but death is certain. He walks the mile of death.

It should not be so with you, dear Christian. On the day that you believed on Him and heard Him say:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

You became convinced by God's Spirit that “**there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death**” (Proverbs 14:12). You realized that the road you were on was the *last mile*. You realized that you needed to get off of that deadly path and **get into the Way that is Jesus**. This was the Way of Life, victorious Life, Eternal Life. You saw your life was but death, that you were a *dead man walking* until you surrendered to Jesus Christ.

Nothing has changed.

Illustrate The devil is still just as mean. The world is still just as confused and blinded. There are black wasps

and red tailed wasps, but regardless of color a wasp is still a wasp. Avoid the sting of death and of sin. **Abide in Christ, for He is powerful** still. Abide in His Word, and let His Word abide in you. Those who have the Word of God in them are best able to pray, for they pray God's Word back to Him **and His Word shall not return void**. Glorify the Father, magnify the Son, and absorb His Word. Live by it's precepts whether you understand it or not.

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things [are] possible to him that believeth.

Christ does not ask that you understand His Word, but that you **believe in His Word**. Christ does not invite you to debate His Word, but He commands you to **do His Word**. Jesus does not command that you question His Word, **but that you dwell in His love**.

He has said “**as the Father hath loved Me, so have I loved you**” (John 15:9). Dwell in that love. Trust Him. Believe Him. Pray to Him. Read and live His Word.

May God touch your hearts with these truths.