

*The Life
Which Glorifies
God*

ED LACY



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THE LIFE WHICH GLORIFIES GOD

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THE LIFE WHICH GLORIFIES GOD

SESSION ONE

JOHN 15:1-11 - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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.

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. ..."

JOHN 15:1 - "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."

JOHN 14:32B - "... ARISE LET US GO FROM HERE."

1. The Lord and His disciples left the upper room and began their journey to the _____ of Gethsemane.

-
2. The 'Golden Vine' on Herod's temple, which represented national Israel, may have well been the image that our Lord employed to teach this tremendous _____.

I. THE LORD JESUS DECLARED HIS DEITY

John 15:1a - "I am the true vine... ."

- A. We hear the final **"I AM"** statement, concerning Jesus' claim to be the co-equal and co-eternal _____ the Son.



Exodus 3:14 - And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:18b - ... The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

John 5:18b - [Jesus] ... but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.

John 10:33b - "... You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

- B. He who has seen Me has seen the _____. – John 14:9
- C. Only one who is fully God can meet all of our needs, as dependent branches in union with the _____.
- D. Since Jesus Christ is the great "I AM", His teaching in these verses comes to us with divine _____.

II. THE LORD JESUS DECLARED HIS AUTHENTICITY

John 15:1a - "I am the true vine... ."

- A. The emblem of a vine was the symbol for national _____.

Isaiah 5:1-7 - Now let me sing to my Well-beloved a song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard on a very fruitful hill. He dug it up and cleared out its stones, and planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, and also made a winepress in it; so He expected it to bring forth good grapes, but it brought forth wild grapes. "And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. What more could have been done to My vineyard that I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, did it bring forth wild grapes? And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned; and break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will lay it waste; it shall not be pruned or dug, but there shall come up briars and thorns. I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain on it." For the Vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; for righteousness, but behold, a cry for help.

- B. This passage is portraying the tragic lack of faithfulness and fruitfulness in the vine that _____ had planted.
- C. Every time that national Israel was mentioned as a vine, it was always described as being a worthless and _____ vine.

Psalms 80:8-9 - You have brought a vine out of Egypt; You have cast out the nations, and planted it. You prepared room for it, and caused it to take deep root, and it filled the land.

Psalms 80:12 - Why have you broken down her hedges, so that all who pass by the way pluck her fruit?

Psalms 80:16 - It is burned with fire, it is cut down; they perish at the rebuke of Your countenance.

Ezekiel 15:6-8 - "Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Like the wood of the vine among the trees of the forest, which I have given to the fire for fuel, so I will give up the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will set My face against them. They will go out from one fire, but another fire shall devour them. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I set My face against them. Thus I will make the land desolate, because they have persisted in unfaithfulness,' says the Lord God."

- D. Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me into the degenerate plant of an _____ vine? – Jeremiah 2:21

Hosea 10:1b - Israel empties his vine; he brings forth fruit for himself.

- E. The vast majority of these lost religionists had never received a spiritual heart transplant; consequently, they were utterly incapable of producing the fruit which God desired and _____.

-
- F. In complete contrast to this backdrop of many centuries of the total failure of Israel, God the Son declared to His original disciples, "I am the _____ vine".
- G. As the true vine, the "I Am" was going to fulfill all of His Father's expectations for an astounding and abounding _____ of fruit, from every tribe, tongue and nation.

III. THE LORD JESUS DECLARED HIS SUFFICIENCY

John 15:1a - "I am the true vine... ."

- A. I will be your sufficient and satisfying source for everything that you need for spiritual light and _____.

II Peter 1:3 ... as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

- B. Those who are in union with the vine will have everything that they need. Those who are not in union with the vine have _____.
- C. The sufficiency of the vine meets every demand that a branch may face, to accomplish anything that is within the _____ of God.

IV. "MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER"

John 15:1b - "... My Father is the vinedresser."

- A. A vine must have a vinedresser to plant it, watch over it and to rejoice in its _____.
- B. It was only the day before, that the Lord Jesus had taught 'the parable of the wicked vinedressers', in which Jesus powerfully confronted the apostate religious _____ of Israel.

Mark 12:1-12 -Then He began to speak to them in parables: "A man planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a place for the wine vat and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that he might receive some of the fruit of the vineyard from the vinedressers. And they took him and beat him and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent them another servant, and at him they threw stones, wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully treated. And again he sent another, and him they killed; and many others, beating some and killing some. Therefore still having one son, his beloved, he also sent him to them last, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But those vinedressers said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' So they took him and killed him and cast him out of the vineyard. "Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the vinedressers, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not even read the Scripture:

'The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the Lord's doing. And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

And they sought to lay hands on Him, but feared the multitude, for they knew He had spoken the parable against them. So they left Him and went away.

- C. God had periodically sent His faithful prophets and priests to the nation, for He expected a spiritual harvest from these _____.
- D. The care of the vine would no longer be entrusted to any vinedresser on a _____ level. For these wicked vinedressers were replaced by God the _____.

V. THE BRANCHES

John 15:5a - "... you are the branches."

- A. The life of every branch is a life of full _____.
- B. The life of every branch is to be a life of full _____.
- C. The life of every branch is to involve a life of full _____.



THE FRUIT OF AUTHENTIC CONVERSION

SESSION TWO

JOHN 15:8 – By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, so you will prove to be My disciples.

1. There are only 2 categories of people who are presently living in this _____.
2. How can I possess the infallible assurance that I am an authentic branch who has been graciously implanted into union with the One who declared, I AM THE _____?

I. THE THREE PRINCIPLE SOURCES OF ASSURANCE FOUND IN I JOHN

- A. The living reality of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ has been made real to me, in that I have entered into a _____ knowledge of Jesus Christ.

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

II Corinthians 4:6 - For it is God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

-
- B. The Spirit of God bears witness with my spirit that I am a _____ of God.

I John 5:10a - He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself;

I Corinthians 3:16 - Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- C. The Spirit of God is producing the ongoing fruit, which gives the evidence that I have been engrafted into a living union with the _____.



II. THE I JOHN FRUIT OF A BRANCH WHO IS IN UNION WITH THE VINE

I JOHN 5:13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1. The fruit of a pursuit of sanctification.

I John 1:6-9 - If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- A. God not only graced me with the gift of justification, He also graced me with a new heart to pursue _____.

Hebrews 12:14 - Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

- B. The indwelling Spirit of God leads you to diligently follow after a direction of life, that bears the fruit of a life that is:

1) Set apart **from** your flesh's agendas

AND

2) Set apart **unto** _____ agendas!

C. I am one who is continually confessing my sins, so He is faithful and just to continually forgive my sins, and to continually cleanse me of all _____.

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.

D. Whoever is born of God does not practice sin. Whoever practices sin has neither seen Jesus nor does he _____ Jesus.

E. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who is born of God _____ righteousness. – I John 2:29

Romans 6:19b -...so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

I John 3:2-3 – Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

2. The fruit of a passion for submission.

I John 2:3-4 - Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

A. You can know that you are in union with the vine, if you bear the fruit of a transformed disposition of character; a transformed direction of life; and an ongoing desire of the heart to obey the will of God, as you are continually discovering it in the _____ of God.

B. Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, _____ yourselves. – James 1:22

Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

C. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you continue in my word, you are my _____ disciples indeed". – John 8:31

I John 2:3 - Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

John 10:27 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

- D. I am **not** preaching a 'salvation by works'; I am preaching a 'salvation _____ works'.

Ephesians 2:8-10 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, now of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 - I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

I Corinthians 16:22a - If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.

- E. He that has my commands and guards them diligently, it is he who _____ Me. – John 14:21

3. The fruit of a purpose toward separation.

I John 2:15-17 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

- A. The verse is describing this fallen 'world system', which is headed by the prince of the power of the air; and all that is within it that is _____ to the Kingdom of God.

I John 5:19b - ... and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

- B. John is describing all of the empty wells of the world system, in which sinners attempt to quench their thirsty _____.
- C. 'The world system' describes all of the imitations, which the world has to offer a person, which are nothing but deceptive and illusive _____.
- D. Where are the affections of your heart fixed, in your '7-day a week' _____ of your life?

E. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an _____ of God. - James 4:4

F. There is nothing that is more contrary to a heavenly hope than a _____ heart.

Ephesians 2:1 - And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ...

G. This individual may have a disguise of religiosity; but their practice of lifestyle revolves around the _____.

Philippians 3:19 - ... whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.

4. The proof of the fruit of the supernatural love for the brethren.

I John 3:14 - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

I John 3:16-18 - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

A. The supernatural love of God was poured into my heart, at the moment of my _____ to Jesus Christ.

B. This is a divine love, which is supernatural in its _____.

John 3:16a - For God so loved the world ...

I John 4:8b - ... God is love.

I John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

I John 4:8 - He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

C. This is a divine love, which _____ as an evidence.

I John 3:16 - By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

John 13:35 - "... By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

I John 4:20b - ... for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?

I John 5:1 - Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.

I John 4:11 - Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

D. This is a divine love, which _____ as an evidence.

I John 3:17 - But whosoever has these world's goods and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1) Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had _____. – Acts 2:44-45

2) The fruit of being in union with the vine is a love that joyfully and willingly _____ to the needs of the saints.

5. The proclamation of this gospel of love to lost _____.

I John 4:13-14 - By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

A. The weight of what I have seen and heard now compels me to testify to other sinners, 'that the Father has sent the Son, as the _____ of sinners'.

B. There are two spiritual realities that are united in this phrase. 'We have seen and testify'; therefore what God has joined together, let no man _____.

➤ **Seen** &
➤ **Testify**

C. When the Lord gives a person a 'mighty call of grace', which results in a supernatural heart transplant, that new heart is ignited with a desire and a determination to call others with a gospel call to the _____.



Examples: Andrew heard the call — “Follow Me”, and immediately testified to Peter. Philip heard that same call and immediately testified about the Messiah to Nathaniel.

- D. Even though John is initially describing an ‘apostolic seeing’, by a face to face encounter with Jesus Christ; he is also describing ‘our spiritual seeing of Christ’, through the power of the Spirit in the application of the _____.
- E. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may _____ that you have eternal life.
I John 5:13
- F. If I died in the next 30 seconds, I am not trusting in the _____.
- G. A message such as this can be very confirming and correcting to a person who is in union with Christ; however, it can be extremely alarming and awakening to the person who is _____ in union with Christ.

II Corinthians 13:5 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.

John 20:31 - ... but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

- H. Is the practice of your life characterized by the scriptural _____ that you are in Christ?



WILL YOU ALLOW THE WORD OF GOD TO EXAMINE YOUR LIFE?

GOD'S CORRECTION OF THE FALTERING DISCIPLE

SESSION THREE

John 15:2 – “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”

1. If we are going to understand the first half of verse 2, we must have some understanding of the practices of a ‘first century’ Palestinian vinedresser, as he cared for every branch which was in union with the _____.
2. The agricultural responsibilities of the vinedresser, which the Lord employed in verse 2 and verse 6, were two different tasks, which occurred at two different times of the farming _____.
3. The vinedresser is presently operating in the life of every branch who is in union with the vine, for the divine purpose of bearing _____ for His glory.
4. We are considering a very difficult and an extremely controversial verse, which has conflicting _____ among believers.
5. One doctrinal view of this verse would state that, “The Vinedresser who had implanted them into union with the Vine, later determined to disown them; discard them; and disinherit them. So the Vinedresser cast them out of this vital union and living connectivity to the _____”.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 10:27-29 – “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

John 17:2 – “... as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Me.”

Ephesians 1:3-4a - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

John 6:37 – “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

A. Would God the Son decide to cast out a love gift that God the Father has _____ to Him?

John 6:39 – “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

John 17:9 - “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

John 17:11b - “... Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.”

B. God the Father so loved God the Son that He gave Him a love gift, who would be His _____ bride.

C. Would God the Father refuse to answer God the Son’s prayer to ‘preserve’ this highly prized love gift that the Father had given to _____?

D. [Father], as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have _____ Him.
John 17:2



6. The opposing doctrinal view would state that, “The person in verse 2a was in the visible church, but they were never truly planted into a living union with _____”.

A. At that day, you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in _____. – John 14:20

- B. Therefore, if anyone is _____ Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become _____.
II Corinthians 5:17

Ephesians 1:3 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Ephesians 1:4a - ... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

Ephesians 1:6b - ...by which He made us accepted in the beloved.

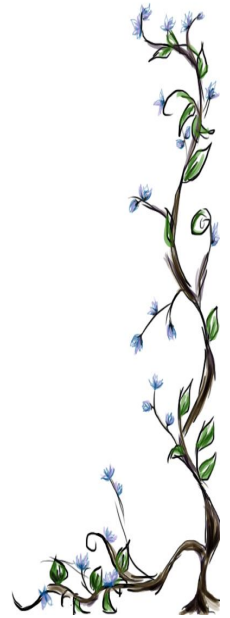
Ephesians 1:7 - In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Ephesians 1:11a - In Him also we have obtained an inheritance,

Ephesians 2:10a - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,

Colossians 2:10a - ... and you are complete in Him,

Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus,



- C. Whenever you observe one of these phrases in the New Testament, it always describes an authentic _____.

John 14:10a - "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?"

John 17:20-21a - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,"

- D. For we have been united together in the likeness of His death... knowing that our old man was crucified _____ Him.
Romans 6:5-6a

Colossians 2:20a - Therefore, if you died with Christ

Romans 6:4a - Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism unto death,

I Thessalonians 4:16 - For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

-
- E. It is totally inconsistent to say that this phrase “In Me”, which is found in John 15:2a, refers to a person who merely professed to be saved but was _____ truly converted.

I. GOD’S CORRECTION OF A FALTERING DISCIPLE

John 15:2 - Every branch in union with Me that is not presently bearing fruit, He lifts it up.

- A. It is absolutely vital that we understand the alternative translations of the word _____.

John 1:29a - ... “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!...”

John 12:32 - “... And I, if I am **LIFTED UP** from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”

John 5:8 - Jesus said to him, “Rise, **TAKE UP** your bed and walk.”

John 8:59a - Then they **TOOK UP** stones to throw at Him;

John 11:41b - ... And Jesus **LIFTED UP** His eyes

- B. Branches have a natural tendency to trail downward and fall into the _____.

- C. The vinedresser would:

- 1) Lift the branch from the surrounding filth of the ground.
- 2) He would carefully wash all of the dirt from the branch.
- 3) Then he would tie the branch either to a trellis or to the other productive branches, for the purpose of restoring this branch to its proper position of _____.



-
- D. The vinedresser has a specific _____ for every branch, which is in union with the vine.
- E. There can be a season in the life of a born-again believer, when they are _____ bearing fruit.
- F. The only reason for a lack of fruit in a believer's life is unconfessed, unrepentant and unforsaken _____.
- G. The vinedresser is not content with a fruitless branch. He will do whatever is necessary to bring _____ to the branch.
- H. The Lord Jesus is portraying the loving correction and fatherly _____ of our faithful vinedresser.

Proverbs 3:11 - My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction;

Psalms 94:12 - Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Lord, and teach out of Your law,

Revelation 3:19a - As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.

- I. For if we judge ourselves we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are _____ by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world. – I Corinthians 11:31-32
- J. The faltering branch of verse 2a specifically describes the season of barrenness, which Peter and the other disciples were about to _____ into.
- John 13:10 - Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."
- K. These faltering branches needed to have their feet washed through repentance of their sin and the practical restoration of the Lord to a renewed position of _____.
- L. When the vinedresser corrects a barren branch, He isn't punishing the branch. He is lifting it up to the position in which it can become _____ again.

II. WHAT ARE THE MEANS WHICH THE VINEDRESSER EMPLOYS TO CORRECT HIS CHILDREN

- A. The vinedresser will use the _____ of God to confront and correct a believer.



*R*eproof

*C*orrection

*I*nstruction

- B. The vinedresser may use another _____ to lovingly confront and correct a believer.

- 1) Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be _____. – Galatians 2:11
- 2) Paul did not confront Peter for the purpose of humiliating him, but because Paul loved the Lord and he _____ Peter.

- C. The vinedresser will use His _____, if necessary, to confront and correct a believer.

Matthew 18:15-17 - "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

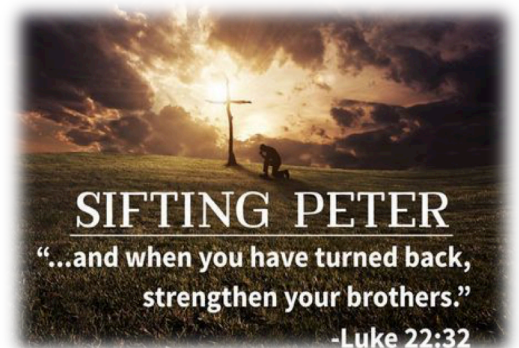
- 1) The Lord of the church commands us to go to them privately, and personally _____ them.
- 2) The Lord of the church commands us to return to them privately, but with two or three _____.
- 3) The Lord of the church commands us to make a public announcement to the entire _____.
- 4) The Lord of the church commands the church to publicly _____ this unrepentant sinner, if they continue to refuse to repent and be restored.

D. The vinedresser may even use _____, if necessary, to correct a fruitless branch.

Luke 22:31 - And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat."

Luke 22:32 - "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- 1) Satan asked the sovereign Lord for permission to violently shake Peter to discover whether his faith in Jesus was _____.
- 2) The Lord Jesus granted Satan the divine _____ to sift Peter and the other disciples.
- 3) The Lord Jesus was going to employ this satanic sifting for the divine purpose of correcting Peter and _____ him to a position of fruitfulness.



III. WHAT IS THE DIVINE MOTIVE OF THE VINEDRESSER'S CORRECTION?

Hebrews 12:5-11 - And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

"My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- A. When I am corrected by the Vinedresser, it is an obvious _____ of my union with the vine.

Hebrews 12:6 - For whom the Lord loves He chastens and scourges every son whom he receives.

- B. God calls us to _____ chastening, for God is treating you as His adopted and accepted child.
- C. But nevertheless, after the correction, it yields the peaceable _____ of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.



GOD'S PRUNING OF THE FRUITFUL DISCIPLE

SESSION FOUR

1. The Lord's use of this 'grape vineyard' analogy would be perfectly consistent with the familiar activities of a Palestinian vinedresser; consequently, these disciples would easily recognize the spiritual _____, which the Lord was teaching to them.

I. THE VINEDRESSER PRUNES US BY CLEANSING

John 15:2b-3 - ... and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it might bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

- A. The Lord declared that the vinedresser continually cleansed every fruitful branch. However, in verse 3 He stated that these branches were already _____.

John 13:10-11 - Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

- B. Every authentic branch has experienced a positional bathing at justification, which never needs to be repeated. However, every fruitful branch is also in need of a continual practical washing, so that this branch may be in the proper position of even greater _____.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

- C. The moment a branch is implanted into union with the vine, he is completely and finally _____.

II Corinthians 5:21 - For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- D. The water, which the vinedresser employs for this 'pruning by cleansing', is the _____ of God.

Titus 3:5b - ... through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 36:25 - Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

I Peter 1:22a - Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth... .

- E. There is a continual need for the preventative measure of the practical cleansing of every fruitful branch, through the washing of the _____ of the word.

John 17:17 - "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

- F. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to your word. Your word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not _____ against you. - Psalm 119:9 & 11

- G. The word of God is a spiritual detergent that the Spirit of God employs to thoroughly cleanse us for a life of _____ fruitfulness.



D. L. MOODY SAID,

**THE BIBLE WILL KEEP YOU
FROM SIN, OR
SIN WILL KEEP YOU
FROM THE BIBLE!**

II. THE VINEDRESSER PRUNES US BY CUTTING

- A. The 'pruning by cutting' will also have enormous ramifications on the quality and quantity of the _____.
- B. There is not one accidental or aimless stroke which comes from the faithful vinedresser on the _____.
- C. The quality and quantity of fruitfulness is maximized by an _____ pruning by cutting.
- D. There are times when our heavenly vinedresser prunes his 'fruit-bearing' branches by taking them on a guided tour through the valley of _____.

James 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Romans 5:3-4 - ... we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

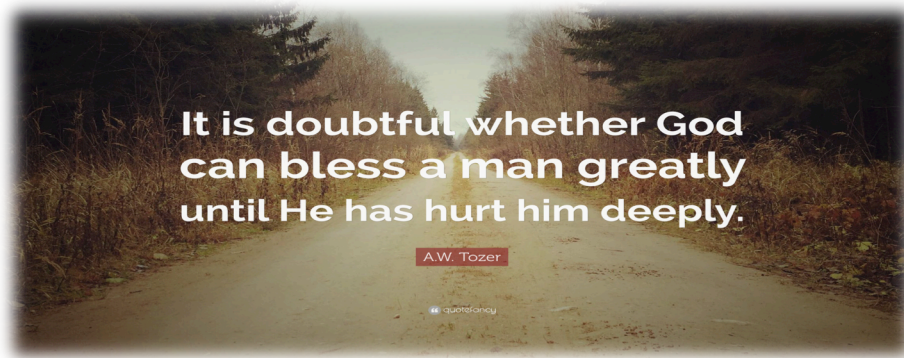
- E. The Greek word which is translated as 'tribulation' was the word which was used to describe the pressure that was applied in _____ grapes, for the purpose of making wine.
- F. The vinedresser says, through His Holy Word, I have ordained this adversity; I have orchestrated this affliction; I have a sovereign purpose in this _____.

Romans 8:28-29 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- G. There are times in our lives that all 'fruit-bearing' disciples must feel the pruning _____ of the heavenly vinedresser.



-
- H. When you find yourself under the pruning knife, you do not need to ask, "Why Me?" For the Lord Jesus has already given us the _____.



I Thessalonians 5:18 - ... in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

- I. The pruning of the Vinedresser is His ordained instrument to produce greater spiritual maturity and _____.
- J. The pruning of adversity and affliction cuts away the worthless and useless things of this life; and draws us to the things which have eternal value and spiritual _____.

III. PROFITABLE PRUNING MUST INCLUDE A HOLY COMBINATION OF BOTH CUTTING AND CLEANSING

- A. The adversity is only the handle of the pruning knife, but the pruning blade is the two-edged sword of the _____ of God.

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- B. The adversity is only a means to an end. However, the end is your heart's subjection and _____ to the word of God.

Psalms 119:71 - It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.

-
- C. When you are lying upon the bed of 'the cutting of adversity', you personally contemplate the Word of God far more seriously than you often do in the season of good _____.
 - D. The handle of adversity may open the wound, but the blade of the Word of God performs the pruning, conducts the cutting, and stimulates the _____.

IV. THE VINEDRESSER FREQUENTLY EMPLOYS THIS PRUNING AS A PREVENTATIVE MEASURE

II Corinthians 12:7-12 - And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- A. Your past blessings can endanger your potential _____ in the future.
- B. To prevent Paul from becoming poisoned with pride, he was given a gift of _____ pruning.
- C. This preventative pruning was a long and pointed _____, which was piercing his life, for the purpose of killing any prideful tendency in his _____.
- D. For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into _____ of Christ. – II Corinthians 11:13
- E. The humility of God's fruit-bearing branches is so essential to the Vinedresser, that He will even use 'demon-inspired' messengers to inflict profound wounds on His servants, to prevent the poison of _____ in the life of His servants.

-
- F. We see clearly that Satan was the immediate cause of this piercing stake for Paul's flesh. However, the Lord was the ultimate and _____ cause.
- G. Satan would never desire for Paul to walk in _____.
- H. We discover that 'what Satan meant for evil', the sovereign Vinedresser was using as a preventative _____ for Paul's ultimate good.
- I. The Vinedresser is keeping this branch in a position of a complete absence of any self-sufficiency; and a total dependence on the all-sufficient _____ of the Vine.
- J. The Vinedresser was employing this 'stake' for Paul's _____ and God's glory.

I Peter 1:6-7 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. These seasons of pruning, by the cutting of adversity, are _____ in their forms.

I Peter 1:6b - ... you have been grieved by various trials,

2. These seasons of pruning, by the cutting of adversity, are _____ for fruit-bearing.

I Peter 1:6b - ... if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,

- a) The Vinedresser employs pruning to reveal the authenticity of the faith of this particular _____.

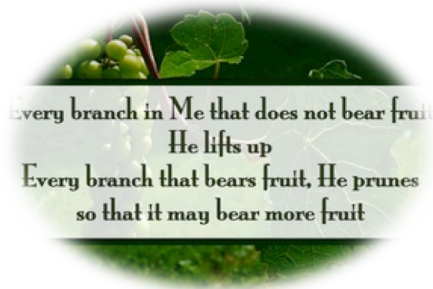
I Peter 1:7a - ... that the genuineness of your faith,

- b) The Vinedresser employs pruning to refine the _____ of the faith of this particular branch.

I Peter 1:7 -... that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire,

-
- c) The Vinedresser employs pruning to _____ the culmination of the faith of this particular branch.

I Peter 1:7b - ... may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.



Will You

*Welcome The Vinedresser's
Pruning Shears In Your Life?*

It's for your good and His Glory!

THE DUTY AND DELIGHT OF ABIDING IN CHRIST

SESSION FIVE

John 15:4-5 – “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

1. Your personal duty to obey the command to “abide in Christ” cannot be apprehended and applied, until you have laid hold of the truth that you are already positionally _____ in union with Christ.

John 3:18a – “He who believes into Him – is not condemned;”

2. The essence of an authentic conversion to Christ becomes a living reality when a sinner believes _____ the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Authentic conversion is a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ the Lord; a saving commitment into Jesus Christ the Lord, which brings this person into a living connectivity and vital _____ with the Vine.
4. Noah’s Ark had only one door of entrance into safety and security. Likewise, there is only one way of deliverance from the wrath to come. You must enter _____ the One who is the Door.

John 10:9a – “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,”

Acts 16:31b – ... “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,”

5. The vast difference between ‘believing in Jesus’ and ‘believing into Jesus’ is the difference between heaven and _____.

I Corinthians 12:13a - For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body

I John 4:13 - By this we know that we abide in Him, and He is us, because He has given us of His Spirit.

6. Whenever there is the presence of spiritual life it will always give _____ of itself.
7. "Since you have entered into this positional union with Me, I am commanding you to walk in a daily, practical _____ of intimacy with Me."

I. OUR PERSONAL DUTY TO 'ABIDE IN UNION WITH CHRIST'

John 15:3-4 - "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

- A. This vital issue of "abiding in the vine" is a command to be _____.

II Corinthians 5:17a - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;

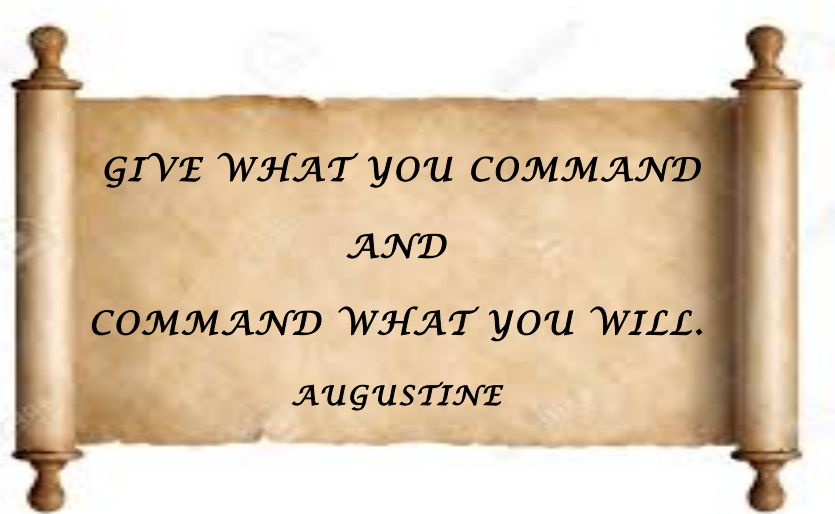
I John 2:28 - And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

- B. The fact that this command is in the present imperative tense means that "abiding in Jesus" is a command that must be personally obeyed, in your continual practice of _____.
- C. This command to "abide in Christ" is the vital key for your spiritual life and _____.



- D. This command to "abide in Christ" is a _____ command.

- Abide in My Word – John 8:31b
 - Abide in My Love – John 15:9b
 - Abide in the Light – I John 2:10
 - Abide in the Doctrine of Christ – I John 1:9



II. THE PROPER DEFINITION OF 'ABIDING IN CHRIST'

A. There is one sense in which the concept "abide" portrays the picture of an enduring _____ in union with Christ.

1. The supreme evidence that a person is an authentic branch and not a Judas branch is that they _____ in Jesus.

John 6:54a – "Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life,."

John 6:56 – "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him."

2. A person who has a temporary faith in Jesus and does not continue in Christ is a _____ branch.

John 13:10b & 11a – "... you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him;

3. There is a remnant who embrace the message of Jesus Christ and abide in a love relationship with Him. However, there is a majority of false professors who superficially attach themselves to Jesus, but they do not _____ in Him.

Remember John 12!

a) "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the Poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a _____, – John 12:5 & 6b

4. Judas is the supreme example of those who profess an attachment of faith in the Vine, but do not _____ in Him.

Matthew 7:21 – "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

John 10:27 – "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

John 8:30-31 – As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

5. They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have _____ with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. – I John 2:19

Recall John 6

- Many of the (*so-called*) disciples withdrew and walked with Him no more. v. 66
- Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" – v. 67
- But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." – v. 68-69
- Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" – v. 70

6. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence _____ to the end, – Hebrews 3:14

B. There is another sense in which the word "abide" portrays the picture of a 'daily pursuit' of intimate _____ with Christ.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is a home for you to dwell in, which is richly furnished with all of the fullness of _____.

John 1:38b - ... They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?"

John 2:12 - After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.

2. Your heart must maintain this conscious communion with Jesus; your mind must maintain this continual focus on Jesus; and your soul must maintain a continual _____ with Jesus.
3. The Lord has commanded each disciple to remain personally anchored to this sweet intimacy with Him, as their _____.
4. You are abiding in Christ when you are cultivating a daily communion with your Lord, in ever _____ levels of intimacy.

I John 2:6 – He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

5. It is true that the Vine is the only source for bearing fruit; but it is of equal importance that you, as a branch, are personally responsible to keep your heart fixed and _____ on the Vine.
6. Every authentic branch has an unbreakable position in the Vine. However, there are times when our hearts and minds are not as experientially _____ as they should be.
7. I am commanded to return to that sphere of close connection and cherished communion with _____.

III. THERE IS ANOTHER SENSE IN WHICH THE WORD "ABIDE" PICTURES THE "CONTINUAL CONFIDENCE" OF RESTING IN THE VINE

- A. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so _____ in Him. – Colossians 2:6

-
- B. If you only make a superficial examination of the word 'abide' it appears to be a _____ word.
- C. When you study the passages in the New Testament where your union with Christ is most clearly stated, you will also find specific commands concerning your personal responsibility to exert both a conscious and intense _____.

Colossians 3:1-5 - If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

- If then you were raised with Christ – [Union with Christ]
 - Seek those things which are above – [Personal effort]
 - Set your mind on things above - [Personal effort]
 - For you died and your life is hidden with Christ - [Union with Christ]
 - Therefore, put to death your members - [Personal effort]
 - Put to death fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry - [Personal effort]
- D. There is nothing passive about the word 'abide'. The Lord is commanding us to be involved in an active, determined, steadfast pursuit of intimate communion with the Vine; as well as a sincere pursuit of an active life of pleasing _____ to His commands.

Philippians 2:12-13 - Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

- If you **KEEP** My commandments – John 15:10
- He who says that he abides in Him ought himself to **WALK** just as Jesus walked – I John 2:6
- He who **DOES** the will of God Abides forever – I John 2:17b
- Now he who **KEEPS** His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. I John 3:24

-
- E. The biblical concept of 'abiding' is a personal and passionate 'pressing into' intimacy with the Lord; so that your entire being is being consumed with a blazing passion to know Him, to follow Him, and to yield in _____ to Him.

Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:29 - To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

- F. This passage clearly teaches us that there are varying levels of _____ in the lives of authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

- ❖ No fruit to fruit
- ❖ Fruit to more fruit
- ❖ More fruit to much fruit

- G. Why does there appear to be so few who are obviously _____ for great productivity for the glory of the Vine?

John 15:4b - ... "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

1. The Lord Jesus did not save your soul so that He would be only a distant friend, whom you would _____ occasionally.
2. When have you been most lacking in fruitfulness? Has it not been when you have lived farthest away from sweet _____ with the Lord Jesus?
3. You have no personal ability to accomplish anything of any eternal value or any spiritual significance unless you _____ in communion with the Vine.

John 15:5b - "... for without Me you can do nothing."

-
4. Both of these statements in verses 4 and 5 are commands for us to apply the death penalty to _____ sufficiency.
 5. Both of these statements are also commands to acknowledge our comprehensive neediness of Him; and our complete _____ on Him.
 6. It is the full conviction of our utter dependence on Him which should compel us to _____ in the Vine.

Are You Abiding In An Intimate Communion With Jesus Christ?

IV. HOW CAN YOU MAINTAIN THE INTIMACY OF ABIDING IN CLOSE COMMUNION WITH CHRIST

Acts 2:42 – And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine

- A. You must maintain a life of practical obedience to His _____.

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 14:20-21 – "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to Him."

John 14:23b – "If anyone loves Me, He will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

1. If a teenager desires to deepen his relationship with his dad, he can begin by listening to him and _____ him.

John 15:11 - "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

2.A believer who is abiding under the rule of the word of Jesus _____ his intimate communion with Jesus.

John 8:31b - ... "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

John 5:39 - "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

B. You must maintain a life of daily intimacy in _____.

Acts 2:42a - And they continued steadfastly

Mark 1:35 - Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.

Luke 5:16 - So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.

1.No one reaches the conclusion of their life and testifies that they are saddened by the personal regret that 'they have prayed _____ much'.

Colossians 4:2 - Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

2. Mutual communion is the heart of true _____.

John 15:13 - "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

3.It is not only a personal duty, but it should also be our precious _____ to commune with our friend and Lord in intimate prayer.

C. You must pursue continual fellowship with other authentic _____ of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:42 - They continued in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship,

1. If you desire to abide in intimate communion with the Vine, you must earnestly seek to enjoy fellowship with the other _____ who are in union with the Vine.

-
2. No one can abide in intimate communion with the Vine while they separate themselves from the other _____.

Acts 2:44 - Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, ...

3. Tragically, this individualistic attitude has poisoned many churches with a lack of genuine and intimate _____.

- D. We pursue communion with Christ by partaking of the communion of the Lord's _____.



Acts 2:42b - ... in the breaking of bread,

I Corinthians 10:16 - The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

1. This blessed ordinance sets forth a precious opportunity to enjoy joint _____ with Jesus Christ.

V. THE GLORIOUS PROMISE TO THOSE WHO WILL MAINTAIN THIS INTIMACY OF ABIDING IN CLOSE COMMUNION WITH JESUS

- A. All of the supernatural and miraculous activity of the Vine is directly connected to your _____ to this command to 'abide' in sweet intimacy with Christ.

Psalm 91:1 - He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

THE JUDAS BRANCH

SESSION SIX

JOHN 15:6 – If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them in the fire, and they are burned.

1. It was not until the conclusion of the harvesting season, that he would gather the withered and fruitless branches and throw them into the fire to be _____.
2. The Lord Jesus does not use the word 'branch' at the beginning of verse 6, as He did in verse 2. Instead, He now uses the indefinite and impersonal pronoun '_____'.

Matthew 7:23b – ... 'I never knew you; depart from Me, ... !'

I. JUDAS ISCARIOT DID NOT ABIDE IN CHRIST

- A. Judas obviously professed an external and mechanical connection to the Lord Jesus. However, he had recently exited to carry out his wicked errand of _____.
- B. Judas was never attached to the Lord Jesus spiritually; consequently, he did not _____ in Him.
- C. The ultimate issue was not the integrity of the Vine; it was the condition of the unconverted _____ of Judas.

D. Judas was under the direct influence of the blazing light of the Vine for three years; and yet, he _____ in the darkness of his own wicked ambition and selfish greed.

E. This wicked hypocrite betrayed the Eternal Son of God with a kiss; and sold his soul for the love of _____.

John 13:26-27a - Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him.

John 13:30 - Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.

F. Judas would never see another sunrise, for he would soon be cast into the outer darkness and the eternal _____.

II. THERE ARE MANY 'FALSE DISCIPLES' WHO DO NOT ABIDE IN CHRIST

John 15:6a - "If anyone does not abide in Me,"

A. The Lord Jesus could not teach about the blessedness of fruitfulness, which flows from a vital union with Him, without warning of the tragedy of barrenness which inevitably follows a _____ profession of faith in Him.

I John 2:24a - Therefore let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning.

I John 2:19 - They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

B. John is repeating what he had learned from His Lord's teaching and his personal experience with _____.

John 15:8 - By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.

C. The Lord Jesus promised that, "He who comes to Me, I will never cast out"; but the Judas branch never came to Jesus on His _____.

- D. Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the _____. – Matthew 7:17-19

Matthew 7:22 - "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' "

Matthew 7:23 - And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"

- E. Just as the fruitless branches were thrown into the fire and burned, these superficial and artificial disciples will be cast into the eternal furnace of _____.

John 15:6b - ... and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.



The Parable Of The Fruitless Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9 – He also spoke this parable; "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

1. The fig tree represents Israel. But it also applies to each individual person who has failed to enter into an abiding union with Jesus; therefore, they are not bearing the _____ fruit of true conversion to Christ.

I. THE COMPARISON THAT GOD MAKES

Luke 13:6 – “A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none.”

- A. The phrase, ‘A certain man’ represents God the Father. The world is _____ vineyard.

Psalm 24:1 - The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

I Chronicles 29:11b - ... For all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;

Colossians 1:16b - ... All things were created through Him and for Him.

- B. When a vinedresser plants a fig tree in his vineyard, he naturally expects to find fruit on that tree at the _____ time.

Proverbs 12:12b - ... but the root of the righteous yields fruit.

- C. The sovereign owner of this vineyard, that we call the earth, has the right both to require and _____ fruit from your life.
- D. When a fig tree is not bearing fruit, it is only a matter of time before this tree will be cut down and thrown into the _____.

II. THE COURSE THAT GOD SHOULD TAKE

Luke 13:7 – “Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard. ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’”

- A. Even though Israel was planted by God as His choice vine, most of them _____ bore the fruit of repentance and saving faith in the Lord.
- B. There is a very personal application for us today, concerning the course that God should take with a _____ man or woman.

-
- C. Just as it is just and right to cut down a fruitless fig tree and cast it into the fire; it would be just and right for God to cut down a fruitless and false disciple and cast them into _____.
 - D. Of what use is a fruitless person to God, who has created them to worship Him, walk with Him, work with Him and reproduce fruit that remains, for the magnification of the _____?
 - E. It is absolutely astounding that God has not already dealt with many 'false disciples' in precisely the same _____.
 - F. Isn't this the course that you would take with a fig tree that has been fruitless year after _____?
 - G. These religious but false disciples would never exhibit a phony and fruitless _____ again.
 - H. They have not been concerned about their own soul, for they have been comfortable with an artificial profession of faith, which was never planted into _____ with the Lord.
 - I. They would have no right to complain or murmur if God were to immediately cut them down and cast them into the fire, with no further _____.

III. THE CONSIDERATION FOR CHRIST' SAKE

Luke 13:8-9 – "But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.' "

- A. There is a delay, only because of the pleading of the keeper of the vineyard and the patience of the _____ of the vineyard.
- B. The One who voluntarily substituted Himself on a cross is the One who is asking for a little more time for the false disciple to _____.

John 17:20 - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;"

- C. The fact that God has spared this individual is not an insignificant fact. But it is solely because of the _____ of God the Father.



Matthew 3:10 - And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

- D. It is only due to the longsuffering of God that He has withheld His ax of justice and not already cut down fruitless and false _____.

II Peter 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- E. I am saying that even Jesus' request for an extended period of time has an _____ date on it.

Hebrews 4:7 - "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

- F. From the owner's point of view, a fig tree is only good for two possible outcomes: Figs or _____!

John 15:6 - If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.



THE COMMUNION OF ABIDING AND THE CONQUEST OF PREVAILING PRAYER

SESSION SEVEN

JOHN 15: 7 – If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

1. You would think that the Lord is going to promise that, 'if you abide in Him and His words abide in you', you will be enabled to _____ all spiritual works that He has commanded you to do.
2. Jesus does not speak of what you will be able to **do**. He gives you a precious promise concerning what **He** will do for you, through your _____ of Him.

I. 'THIS INTIMATE COMMUNION OF MUTUAL ABIDING' WILL KNOW THE REALITY OF THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

John 15:7b - ... you will ask...

- A. Prayer becomes a spontaneous overflow for those who are enjoying this _____ abiding of the sweet intimacy of communion with the Lord and His word.



-
- B. The one who enjoys this reciprocal 'abiding in the vine and in the word' will send forth prayers to the Lord as a fire sends forth _____ to the sky.

II. 'THE INTIMATE COMMUNION OF MUTUAL ABIDING' WILL KNOW THE NECESSITY OF THE PRACTICE OF PRAYER

- A. A branch, who is 'mutually abiding' in communion with the vine, is well aware that he is in continual **need** to draw from the _____ of the life of the vine.
- B. The Lord commands us to 'seek His face'. The abiding branch gives this loving and submissive response, 'Your face, Lord will I _____.
Psalm 27:8



Is your heart answering this Call?

Is this your desire to pray;

“Your face, Lord, will I seek?”

III. 'THE INTIMATE COMMUNION OF MUTUAL ABIDING' WILL KNOW THE LIBERTY OF PREVAILING PRAYER

II Corinthians 3:17 - Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

- A. If you abide in Jesus and His words abide in you, you will both experience and enjoy this sweet _____ at the throne of grace.

-
- B. The person who is abiding as a surrendered subject to the King will enjoy the freedom of His majesty's _____ scepter in prayer.

For this person is:

- **Abiding** in intimacy with the King
- **Obeing** the dictates of the King
- **Submitting** to the will of the King, and
- **Cooperating** with the agendas of the King.



IV. 'THE INTIMATE COMMUNION OF MUTUAL ABIDING' WILL KNOW THE VICTORY OF PREVAILING PRAYER

John 15:7b - ...ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

- A. You must remember that this 'asking' in verse 7 is directly related to this vital issue of bearing _____ that remains, for the glory of God.

John 15:7-8 – If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- B. The Lord Jesus is teaching about 'asking' for answers to prayers concerning the extension of the Kingdom of Jesus and the accomplishment of the _____ of God.

John 15:16 – You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

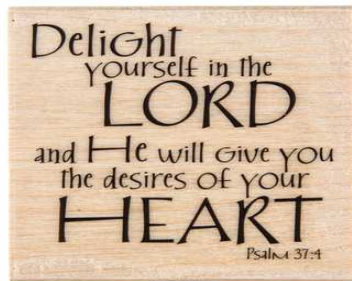
- C. When you are abiding in the living word and yielding to the written word, then you can be assured that your prayers for fruitfulness will be _____.



V. THE LIBERTY OF 'ASKING WHAT YOU DESIRE' AND THE 'VICTORY OF POSSESSING THE ANSWER' IS SIMULTANEOUSLY CONNECTED TO THE TEACHING OF JESUS GUIDING AND GOVERNING YOUR LIFE

John 15:7b - ... and My words abide in you, ...

- A. The tangible reality of 'Christ abiding in the life of a disciple' is manifested by His '_____' abiding in the life of that disciple.
- B. You must welcome the Lord Jesus to reign in your heart, not as a silent guest, but as an authoritative _____.
- C. Delight yourself also in the Lord and He shall give you the _____ of your heart. – Psalm 37:4



*Doesn't this sounds very much
like an Old Testament version
of John 15:17?*

- D. When you truly desire to make the Lord the supreme delight of your life, then His desires will become the dominating desires of _____ heart.

I John 5:14 – Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

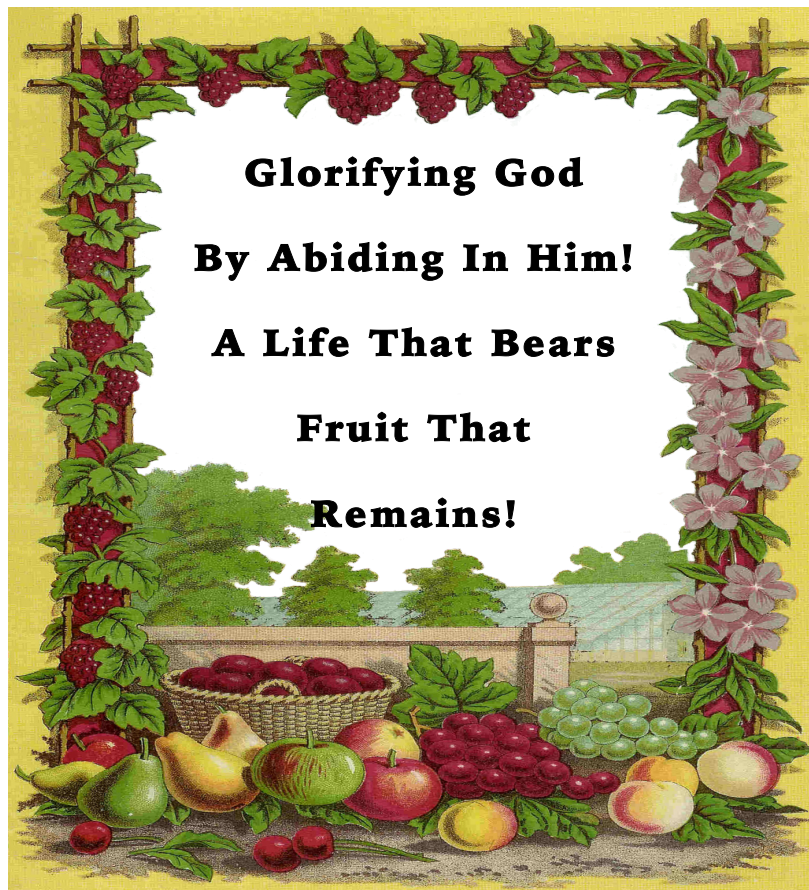
- E. This nature of 'God pleasing prayer' will secure the answer of the Lord in the perfect _____ of the Lord.
- F. The branch shall never reach the place where they will rise beyond 'asking'! But, their 'asking' shall result in many spiritual _____ and much spiritual fruit that remains.

**"By this My Father is glorified,
that you bear much fruit; so you will be My Disciples."**

1. We cannot add to the intrinsic glory of God; nor can we add to the infinite greatness of the totality of His divine _____.
2. We can glorify the Vinedresser by living as an abiding branch, who is producing much spiritual _____.
3. Are you aware that the people of the world evaluate the Vinedresser and the Vine by the fruit which is produced in their _____.

Matthew 5:16 - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

4. This abiding fruit becomes the proof that you are an _____ disciple of Jesus.
5. It will be a tremendous comfort, in your dying hour, if you have glorified God and magnified Jesus in your _____.



ABIDING IN HIS LOVE

SESSION EIGHT

JOHN 15:9-11 - "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."

I. THE PRECIOUS AFFIRMATION OF JESUS' DIVINE LOVE FOR HIS DISCIPLES

John 15:9a - "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you:"

- A. Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He _____ them to the end.
John 13:1

- B. All of the astonishing blessings, which will be lavished on us for all of eternity, are the majestic fruit of the Father's infinite love for the Son and the Son's infinite love for His _____.

John 13:1b - ... having loved His own... .

John 6:37 - "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

John 6:39 - "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."

John 17:2 - "... as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him."

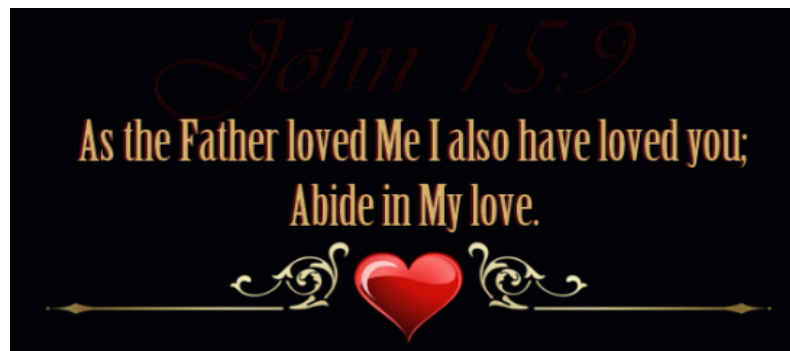
John 17:6a - "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me,"

John 17:9 - "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours."

John 17:20-21a - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us,"

John 17:24 - "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

- C. Just as I (Jesus) am perfectly resting in the heart of My Father, you may perfectly rest in my _____.



- D. Jesus' love for us is infinitely fuller than 'the Sun is full of light and the oceans are full of _____'.
- E. We must never become complacent over the personal astonishment that God the Son has loved us and given _____ for us.

Galatians 2:20 - I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- F. That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of _____ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. – Ephesians 3:17-19
- G. We experience His divine life, as we experience His divine _____.

H. You must remember that Jesus is not giving this precious affirmation to His holy angels, who have never rebelled against any of His _____.

I. When you examine your own life, can you truthfully testify that you love Jesus _____ than anyone or anything else?

II. WE MUST ABIDE IN THE INTIMACY OF HIS LOVE

John 15:9a – “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you;”

A. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in _____. - John 14:20

John 17:23 - “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

III. WE MUST ABIDE IN THE IMMUTABILITY OF HIS LOVE

A. The Father’s love for the Son never changes or _____.

B. Jesus Christ cannot love you **more** than He does; and He will not love you _____ than He does.

Romans 8:28 - And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

C. The steadfast love of the Lord never _____.

IV. WE MUST ABIDE IN THE IMMEASURABILITY OF HIS LOVE

Ephesians 3:17-19 – ... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

-
- A. You cannot say that the Father loves the Son to a certain point, but no farther. In the same way, you cannot say that Jesus loves His bride to a certain point, but no _____.

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:36 – “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

- B. The love of Jesus Christ for His ‘love gift’ is immeasurable in the extent of its quantity of time; and unlimited in degree of its _____ of love.

V. WE MUST ABIDE IN THE ETERNALITY OF HIS LOVE

John 17:24 – “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”

- A. As the Father has loved Jesus with an eternal love; in the same manner, the Lord Jesus has loved His bride with an _____ love.

Romans 8:28 – And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:29 – For whom He foreknew,

- B. If we are going to discover the true definition of the word ‘foreknow’, we must first grasp the biblical definition of the use of the word _____.

Matthew 7:23 – And then I will declare to them, “ I never **knew** you;”

John 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd; and I **know** My sheep, and am **known** by My own.”

John 10:15a – “As the Father **knows** Me, even so I **know** the Father;”

John 10:27 – “My sheep hear My voice, and I **know** them, and they follow Me.”

John 17:3 – And this is eternal life, that they may **know** You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

- C. The word 'know' means that they have entered into a saving _____ of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**In like manner,
we must know and understand
the biblical definition of the word
'foreknow'.**

Romans 8:29 - For whom He **foreknew**,

Romans 11:2a - God has not cast away His people whom He **foreknew**.

- D. We exist in time and space, so we cannot fully comprehend the astounding reality that God lives _____ time.
- E. As the Father has loved Me, from before the foundation of the world, I set My love on My bride from before the foundation of the _____.

VI. THE PERSONAL EXHORTATION OF JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES

Jude 20-21- But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.



**WHAT ARE THE MEANS
by which we can successfully
abide in Jesus' love for us?**



- A. You 'abide in His love' by daily preaching the gospel to _____.
1. If you fail to preach the gospel to yourself, this will have a negative effect on your soul.

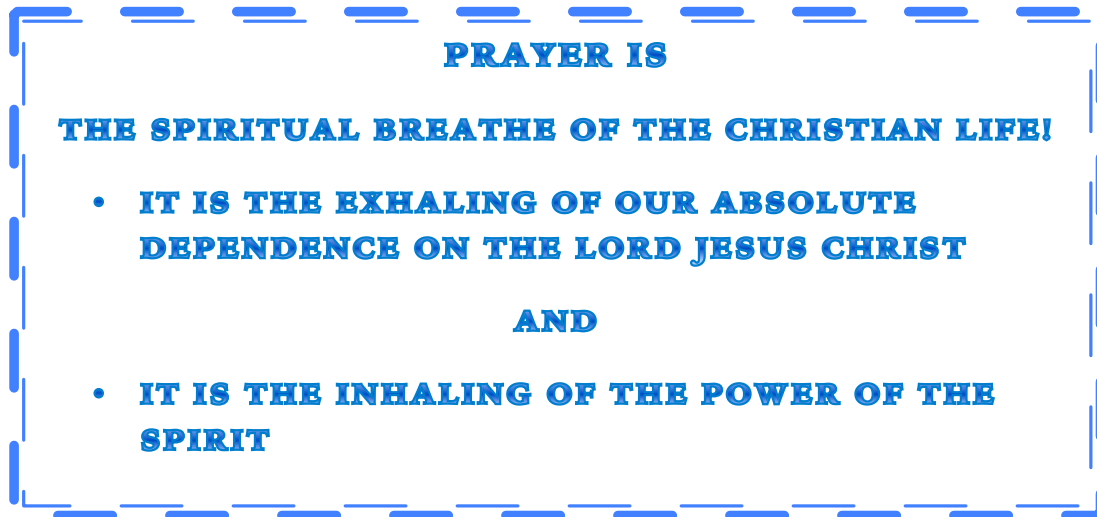
II Corinthians 2:13a - I had no rest in my spirit, because I did not find Titus my brother;

II Corinthians 2:14a - Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ,

2. Paul preached the promises of the gospel to _____.

B. We also abide in His love by praying in the _____.

1. Praying in the power and the wisdom of the Spirit cultivates our _____ with Jesus.



C. We abide in His love by gazing at the _____ that is to come, with the eyes of faith.

Jude 21b - ... looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Romans 5:3-4 – And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.



❖ **It Will Have A Strengthening Influence**

- **We will know that no-one or nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of Christ**
- **We can rest in His promise that in all things we are more than conquerors through Him who loves us, and**
- **His perfect love for us cast out fear**

❖ **It Will Have A Compelling Influence**

- **The love of Christ compels you and energizes you to be a channel of His supernatural love to other disciples and**
- **To be a messenger of His love to a lost and dying world.**

❖ **It Will Have An Activating Influence**

“Faith works by Love”

- **Influenced to maintain a passion and purpose to fulfill the great Commandment and to fulfill the great Commission**

