



Part 1: Walk with Jesus Daily Through Prayer and Scripture

No matter our history, no matter our painful expectations or fears, our Father longs for us to make our home in— abide in — his love in Jesus. God's goodness awaits our willingness to abide in him.

INTRODUCTION

Every one of us comes into the world looking for someone who is looking for us, said Curt Thompson.

“The deepest urge in every human heart is to be in relationship with someone who absolutely delights in us. . . The longing to connect defines our dignity as human beings and our destiny as image bearers.” – Larry Crabb

We might have one of four attachment styles: Secure, Avoidant, Anxious, Disorganized

TEACHING

John 15:4-12 Abide in me, and I in you . . .

As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

The fruit of the Spirit, found in Galatians:

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This can also be the fruit Jesus described in another parable that pointed to our life with Jesus bringing other people to life in him.

If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

If we don't abide in him, we become fruitless. We die. He's saying this more as a statement of fact than a punishment.

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Here we see that we abide by having his words inside us.

We understand this to mean that if we live in union with Jesus, so close that our desires are his desires, our prayers will be a cooperation with him to bring His Father's kingdom to earth. Leaves us with questions, But clearly, abiding involves prayer!

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

We demonstrate the authenticity of our discipleship as we abide and bear fruit.

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.

The Father of the Heavens declared over Jesus: "This is my Beloved son with whom I am well pleased." This was the father letting Jesus know that he delights in him.

And Jesus is saying to us—"I love you LIKE THAT"—I love you with a divine love

We can step outside it, reject it, but we cannot change it.

He doesn't say, don't lose my love. He says don't stop living in it!

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.

We can't just listen to the words, we must do them.

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

His commands lead to joy!

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

It's like he's a stream of love, and to be with him, I have to flow where he is going!

Abide. Walk with Jesus Daily.

Absolutely foundational to this abiding is our communing with him through Prayer and Scripture.

“Prayer is the breath of the soul, the organ by which we receive Christ into our parched and withered hearts” – Ole Hallesby.

“Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God,” Jesus.

That's why our first commitment in Life with Jesus is Walk with Jesus Daily through Prayer and Scripture.

Prayer

God is always with us. But prayer is how we show up to him: “Practice the Presence of God.”

Many of us have been taught that prayer is intercession and petition...and that is part of it.

But prayer is a relationship: Gratitude. Adoration. Confession. Lament. Listening. Silence. Contemplation. Psalms. Biblical Prayers. Pre-Written Prayers. Songs. In all these ways, prayer is how we come to know God and to cooperate with what he is doing in the world.

“As you came near the spring you would marvel, seeing that the water was endless, as it constantly...poured forth. Yet you could never say that you had seen all the water...No matter how long you might stay at the spring, you would always be beginning to see the water...It is the same with one who fixes his gaze on the infinite beauty of God. It is constantly being discovered anew...And as God continues to reveal himself, man continues to wonder; and he never exhausts his desire to see more, since what he is waiting for is always more magnificent, more divine, than all that he has already seen.” – *Gregory of Nyssa*

Scripture

So if prayer is our spiritual breath, Scripture is our food.

“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth (Ps 119:97, 103).

Andrew Wilson puts it like this:

“Reading and reflection on Scripture is like plunging your spoon, your dipper, or perhaps even your hand into the syrupy depths of a honeycomb to scoop out and eat the contents. The Word of God is rich, tasty, satisfying, and enjoyable. It brightens the eyes and enlivens the soul . . . In a world filled with processed products and hybrid wisdom, the words of God are pure, golden, and luxuriously sweet.”

To plunge our hand in requires that we SLOW down and listen for God speaking to us, personally, through his word.

Hebrews says the word of God is alive: “living and active.” Hebrews 4:1

“Even now the fire is burning, the heat of the Word is on, the fierce glow of the Holy Spirit.

So for the time being treat the Scripture of God as the face of God. Melt in front of it.” – Augustine

GOSPEL

When Jesus died, as he breathed his last breath, and cried his last cry, the veil of the Holy Place ripped in half from top to bottom. (Mk 15:38). Jesus was giving his own life to open the way for us to make our way back home to God: Jesus revealed that behind that veil was a Father longing to be reunited with his children.

As Augustine says, “God thirsts to be thirsted after.”

So we can think of prayer and scripture like this:
Like drinking water when you're parched
Like tasting Honey when life has been bitter
Like taking a deep breath of fresh mountain air

Or like coming home to love: Finally seeing the face of the one who is looking for us, the one we have been looking for since we were born.

No matter our history, no matter our painful expectations or fears, our Father longs for us to make our home in—abide in—his love with Jesus. God's endless goodness awaits our willingness to abide in him.

I like how Richard Foster puts it, “Today the heart of God is an open wound of love. He aches over our distance and preoccupation. He mourns that we do not draw near to him. He weeps over our obsession with muchness and manyness. He longs for our presence. And he is inviting you—and me—to come home, to come home where we belong, to come home to that for which we were created. His arms stretch wide to receive us. His heart is enlarged to take us in.”

This is what is behind “Abide in me. Abide in my love.”

Earned Secure Attachment

Abiding in Jesus through Prayer and scripture can help to develop what the scientists call “earned secure attachment” with God.

When we pay attention to something, the neurons in our brain begin to fire in that area. If they are weak, they start to grow, and then they start to meld together. “What fires together wires together.”

Whether or not you *feel* God loves you, you can sit quietly with a scripture that says he does. Like, “As the Father has loved me, so have I have loved you.”

Your brain, under the care of the Holy Spirit, is building a house for your soul to dwell in (abide in)—As Eric Johnson says, “Christians have to re-wire their brains for accessing glory.”

A.W. Tozer says the truths of scripture are, “truths believed by every instructed Christian. It remains for us to think of them and pray over them until they begin to glow within us.”

GROWING

So wherever you find yourself today—we encourage you to pick up a Life with Jesus Guide and explore your next step as you Walk with Jesus Daily through Prayer and Scripture.

May we all take the next step in walking daily Jesus—there’s more for every one of us—more love to know, more life to receive, more fruit to bear.

God’s endless goodness awaits our willingness to abide with him.

Access the “Life with Jesus Guide” [here](#) or learn more about what we have coming up to help you discern your next steps as you love Jesus more fully and seek to follow His way.