

Deepen Your Roots #5

Abiding in Christ: Walking with Jesus

- This was not a planned series! —Caught off guard.
- He broke into my routine life in order to draw me closer to Himself.
- He asked me about my desire to grow. Asked how much did I want to grow?
- Give up radio show - 30 minutes in afternoon
- Purposed (but made no vows)
- Then one of my life's most life-changing events took place over the next month

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A Study on Jesus

- Limited to the familiar Gospels
- Study passages where I could observe how Jesus trained His disciples
- Carefully observe what the disciples saw and heard, after all Jesus was the chief Disciple-maker
- What an adventure sitting at Jesus' feet.
- Considering myself as one with the twelve. Learned too much.
- Sometimes scared, often wept.



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The Real Issue

Not if God speaks

But if we really want Him to speak to us

How desperate are we for Him to speak to us?

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John 15:1-4

15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.



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John 15:5-8

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. 6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. 8 "By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.



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Persist and be Changed

- Each session was a new passage
- Sometime short, sometimes long
- Tempted to give up, but insisted on staying with it
- Then, finally, He broke through
- Always a followup, a life situation where He would teach me further.
- "How much do you want/need My Word?"



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#1 God is the Vinedresser

"My Father is the vinedresser" John 15:1

- God cares for us.
- We are ultimately responsible to Him.
- Life purpose goes beyond my desires.
- We need to accept His care for us.
- God wants to bless us.



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#2 Christ is the True Vine

- **Success is dependent upon our relationship with Christ.**
- **The Abiding**

Self-reliant

no fruit

Christ-reliant

Lots of fruit

Intimacy's purpose is to bear fruit.



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Jesus' Promise

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

- Ask whatever you wish
- Three Conditions:
 - (1) Abide in Christ
 - (2) Christ's words abide in us
 - (3) Ask
- Open-ended promise

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Whatever He tells you to do, you must do it. It is this daring, but needed, heart approach, that makes each Bible meditation time a journey that we never know where it will end up.



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The Right Thinking

- God's right to glory
- The means by which God is glorified

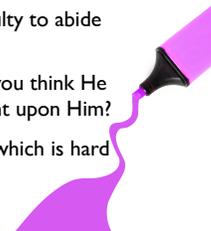
me → success → my glory

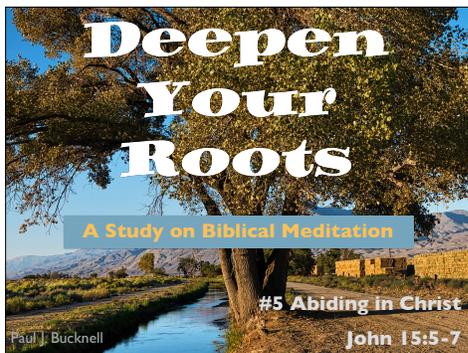
God → me → success → God's glory

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Discussion Questions

- What are the keys to abiding in Jesus?
- What is your chief difficulty to abide in Jesus?
- On what area of life do you think He wants us to be dependent upon Him?
- Discuss an area for you which is hard to be dependent upon the Lord.





Deepen Your Roots

A Study on Biblical Meditation

#5 Abiding in Christ

Paul J. Bucknell John 15:5-7
