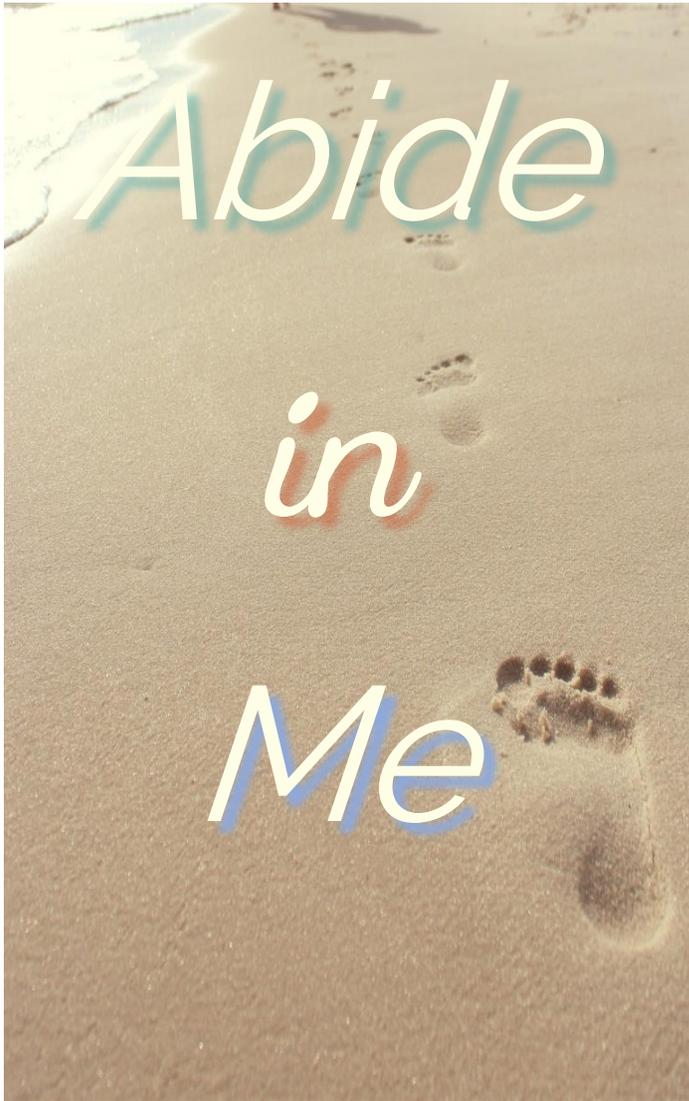


# Abide in Me



## John 15: 5

*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 order matters. This was the theme of a sermon our pastor gave a few months back and it stuck with me. The order in which we do things in life truly makes a difference. This applies most certainly to our faith as well.

*We cannot come to God without Jesus. God first loved us so we can love Him and others. We can't bear fruit in our lives without being connected to Jesus, The order matters.*

To abide means to remain, continue, stay in the same attitude and relationship with. So how do we abide and stay connected to God to live the life He has planned for us? Again the order matters. We must seek Him first to fully abide and then live a fruitful life. This abiding is the basis for our study this month.

[Click here](#) for the link to the sermon which inspired this study.

(While the ESV version uses the word 'abide', for ease of reading, we'll stick with the NLT unless noted. Abide is most often switched to 'remain' in the NLT.)

## NOTES

### Hebrews 12:1-2a

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.

We all are running a race in this life. The fruitfulness of our race depends on how and how well we run. Training has an order to things, and just like life-the order of things matters. We don't begin with fruit, we begin with roots and training which provides a foundation for our efforts to hopefully bear fruit. Our root system, our foundation begins with staying connected to the One who created us for this race.

### John 15: 1-17 (emphasis mine)

"I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. 3 You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.

5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. 6 Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. 7 But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! 8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. 10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey

my Father's commandments and remain in his love. 11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

12 This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. 13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. 16 You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Connected to and abiding in Jesus, we now have all we need to bear fruit in our lives. Just as He says, apart from Him we can do nothing. He provides the strength, wisdom and ability to do all He has planned for us. But we can only draw upon this when we stay connected to Him in His Word, worship, prayer and fellowship.

So, let's dig into how we abide even more deeply...

**31 John 4: 7-18**

Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. 12 No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us.

13 And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us. 14 Furthermore, we have seen with our own eyes and now testify that the Father sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 All who declare that Jesus is the Son of God have God living

**NOTES**

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**1 John 2: 4-6**

If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. 5 But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him. 6 Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

.Here's the application of bearing fruit: **live like Jesus**. We do this by seeking (praying), listening, learning then applying what we've learned in our daily lives. We bear fruit when we live like Jesus!

**NOTES**



**2 Timothy 2:22-24**

Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts. 23 Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. 24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

.Do you get involved in foolish arguments or actions? I know I do, but Paul's admonition to young Timothy is to avoid these things and instead pursue righteousness,, faithfulness, love and peace. Great advice for us all on how to live like Jesus and bear fruit!

**1 John 2:23-24**

Anyone who denies the Son doesn't have the Father, either. But anyone who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24 So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.

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