

*how do i live the gospel in my world?*

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**Why Must Abiding  
Be The Foundation,  
and How Do I Do It?**



**Abide!**

**Word Wisdom**

**READ**

If we want to make an impact for Christ in our world, we **MUST** be connected to Christ and walking closely with Him! Take some time to work and pray through this section and evaluate where you are with the Lord. Abiding in Christ is as important as the air we breathe! Your ministry to your campus begins in your own heart...just you and Jesus. Bellow you will find some important aspects of abiding in Christ...

**SOLITUDE**

- It is foundational for your faith and it's important to have a daily time of silence and time with Jesus.
- It is about being alone with the Lord and making Him your **FIRST** love.
- It helps you to hear God's voice more clearly.
- It is the first step in learning how to **REALLY** pray. (Mark 1:35)
- HOW??
  - Find a quiet place.
  - Take advantage of natural alone times, like in the car or the shower!
  - Try to take a Sabbath, or "rest day" at least once per week which includes praying AND playing!
  - Have a "date" with God once a month!
- Christian Meditation is an important part of your solitude time.
  - This means focusing your mind in prayer on the Lord, His character, part of His Word, Creation, etc. Jesus often did this.
  - Meditating on the Lord is important because it helps you become more Christ-like, keeps things in perspective, and keeps your priorities in order. (Joshua 1:8)
  - It is filling your mind and heart with *God's presence!*

**PRAYER**

- This is about having a two-way conversation with God which includes more listening than talking!
- It is not about getting answers but rather about getting close to God.
- HOW??
  - Get alone
  - Use few words
  - Be honest!
  - Pray through a Psalm or verse
  - When something distracts you, pray about that thing!

(continued on next page)

\* Matthew 14:13  
When Jesus heard what had happened, He withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.

\* Joshua 1:8  
Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night...

\* Mark 1:35  
Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

\* Matthew 6:6-8  
But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.



**Abide!**

**PRAYER**

(continued)

- Make prayer into a conversation with God!
  - Ask God questions...
  - Be specific
  - Wait for answers, ideas...
  - Write the answers down
  - See what the Bible says...
  - Ask again...
  - Do it the way Jesus did! (Hebrews 5:7, Matthew 6)
- Things that can make it hard to pray and keep us from hearing the answers:
  - Unrepented sin
  - An unforgiving attitude
  - Busyness
  - Distractions
  - Selfish motives

**COMMUNITY**

- Anytime you gather with other believers in the name of Jesus, there is potential for deep community...whether you are doing Bible study or just hanging out! We were never meant to be Christians all by ourselves! (Matthew 18:20)
- It encourages us and helps us stay closer to Christ than we could on our own! (Hebrews 10:24,25)
- It shows Christ's love and identity to the world! (John 13:35)
- It empowers us and gives us Christ's wisdom! (Matthew 18:18-20)
- It helps us keep each other accountable and support one another. (Romans 15:14, Galatians 6:1-5)
- It gives us opportunities to use our spiritual gifts! (1 Corinthians 14)
- There are many different ways to be in fellowship!
  - Accountability groups or partners
  - Church/youth groups
  - On-campus ministry teams
  - Prayer groups
  - Small groups/discipleship
  - Even just hanging out and playing with friends who love Jesus and encourage you!

John 17:23—"...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. . . . ."

**Word Wisdom**

\* Hebrews 5:7  
During the days of Jesus' life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the One who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission.

\* Matthew 18:19,20  
...If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there I am with them.

\* Hebrews 10:24,25  
And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...

\* John 13:35  
By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.

\* Romans 15:14  
I am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

\* Galatians 6:2  
Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.



**Abide!**

**Word Wisdom**

**SERVICE**

**Serving others helps us learn how to abide in Jesus!**

- We serve others in order to serve Christ and to fulfill the second greatest commandment...extending His love to others increases our understanding of His love! (Matthew 22:36-39)
- The goal is to please Christ, not others, so let your focus be on Him and not on the reaction of the other person! Mother Teresa once said:  
"To find out if you are truly serving Christ, check your reaction when the person you serve spits in your face after you have served them. If you still love them, then you are serving Christ."
- It's another opportunity to teach us to pray and really seek the Holy Spirit's guidance. It teaches us to be obedient and hear His voice. Ask the Lord to show you the needs around you and where He desires to use you! Pray for opportunities!

**WATCH OUT!**

**Here are some things that make it hard to abide in Christ...**

- Trying too hard (Galatians 3:3). It's NOT about works, it's about grace and just BEING God's child!
- Do not be consumed with failure and guilt. Guilt will NOT motivate you! God is not a God of guilt but of love and encouragement!
- Comparison: Don't compare yourself to others. That will get you nowhere!
- Not trusting God's will for your life. He is fully faithful and trustworthy! Don't hesitate to rest in the knowledge that He is perfect and wants the best things for you! (Psalm 37:4,5)

**HELPS!**

**Remember...**

- You are God's child and NOTHING you do or don't do will change how much He loves you (and that's a lot)! We must understand His love for us.
- Abiding is like an ice cube in a punch bowl. That's how it starts out, but after the ice cube just floats around for awhile, it melts and the punch and the ice cube become one! You are the ice cube, guess who is the punch?!
- He is the vine, you are the branches. If you are abiding, the Vine will produce fruit in you! (John 15:4,5)
- Spend time with the Lord and obey Him because you enjoy Him and know that He loves you, NOT because you have to!

\* Galatians 3:3  
Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

\* 1 John 4:10  
This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

\* John 15:4,5  
Remain in Me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.

\* Psalm 37:4,5  
Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this...



**Abide!**

**WRITE!**

**How I Spend My Time**

<b>Time Spent on:</b>	<b>not nearly enough</b>										<b>tons of time!</b>
Alone with God	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
In prayer	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
My family and friends	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Serving others	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
My schoolwork	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Other: _____	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- What problems do you/could you encounter from spending too much/not enough time in some of these areas?
- What barriers in your life prevent you from using the appropriate amounts of time in each area?
- What will happen in 10 years if you change nothing about your time usage?
- What are some concrete things you can do to get rid of these barriers?

**Counting The Cost (Read Mark 8:34-37)**

- SO, how is Jesus asking you to change your priorities and time usage?
- What other costs might I pay? Are there any I would be unwilling to pay? Why?
- What do we ultimately gain by giving our lives to Jesus? Is it worth the cost?

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# Represent!

## READ

As Christians, we are Christ's representatives to the world.  
Let's live lives worthy of our this amazing calling!

" What was once unthinkable becomes thinkable, then doable, and finally acceptable to society at large. Sin becomes respectable, and Christians finally embrace it. It is my perception that Christians are no more than 5 to 10 years behind the world in embracing most sinful practices."

- *The Discipline of Grace* , Jerry Bridges

It is true that even though we are saved, we are STILL imperfect and we need to be REAL and HONEST with people about that. But at the same time, we often make excuses for our sin because we are too lazy and numb to do anything about it! We need to recognize that we are God's chosen lights in this world...what a privilege! How seriously do we take that responsibility?

In response to the grace that we have received through the death and life of God's only Son, how will we live our lives?

Paul said, "Follow me, as I follow Christ!" Are we willing to make a statement like that? We need to stop saying, "I'm just a messed up person...don't look at me as a good example, just look at Jesus." You may be the only bit of "Jesus" your peers ever meet!

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## WRITE

- What is an area of sin in your life that you need to surrender to the Lord?
- What are some specific measures you can take to begin a greater pursuit of holiness?
- Think about those areas that you struggle with and come up with a plan on how to avoid falling into those things.

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## Word Wisdom

\* Romans 12:1,2  
Therefore I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind..."

\* Ephesians 4:1  
...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

\* 2 Corinthians 7:1  
Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit...

\* 1 Timothy 1:9  
[God]...who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace.

\* 1 Peter 1:15,16  
But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written, "Be holy, because I am holy."



**Get Out There!**

**READ**

It's important to realize that part of abiding in Christ is actively sharing Jesus love with others! Are you ready?

When you look at your school and the students there, what thoughts go through your mind? Do you see the need for Christ on your campus? Does your heart break for those who do not know Him? Do you have a desire to share God's amazing gift of grace with them? Well...GOOD NEWS! THE LORD HAS CALLED YOU TO BE HIS PARTNER IN MINISTRY! And guess what? He has ALREADY BEGUN His good work on your campus! If you walk closely with Him, you will see your campus and opportunities to share through His eyes! It's a pretty sweet set-up! (2 Corinthians 5:17 - 6:1)

**THINK!**

**Be a light on your campus!**

- What difference does a single light make in a dark room?
- How does living in Jesus impact the people around you?
- Has Christ changed your life in a way that your friends will notice?
- What are things you can do to help your friends see Jesus living in you?

**WRITE**

**Your Personal Mission Statement**

By Christmas (or some other time goal), I would like God to do the following things in me and through me...

By June, I would like God to do the following things in me and through me...

**GO!!**

**Word Wisdom**

\* 2 Cor. 5:18-20  
All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ... We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.

\* Ephesians 6:19, 20  
Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should.

\* Matthew 5:14-16  
You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

\* Isaiah 6:8  
Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"