

# Abiding vs Striving

## Matthew 11:28–30 TPT

**28** Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Come to Me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis. **29** Simply join your life with mine. Learn My ways and you'll discover that I'm gentle, humble, and easy to please. You will find refreshment and rest in Me. **30** For all that I require of you will be pleasant (delightful) and easy to bear.

## John 15:4–5, 7 NASB

**4** Abide in Me, and I in you. **5** As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides (remains connected) in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

**7** I am the vine, and 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.

IF you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask **WHATEVER YOU WISH**, and it will be done for you.

*(ps: the secret to answered prayer)*

# Abiding

*To abide is to...*

To remain stable and fixed in a state of being; to live in. (Acts 17:28)

To conform to. (Rom. 12:2)

To patiently wait.  
(Psalms 40:1, Isaiah 40:31)

To stay in the realm of God's peace.  
(Isaiah 26:3, John 14:27)

*To endure, to hold fast.*

It produces hope.  
(Romans 5:5, Heb 6:19)

It produces rest.  
(Matthew 11:28-20)

# Striving

*To strive is to...*

To devote significant effort or energy.

To struggle in opposition to.

To be overly concerned with trivial issues. (Matthew 6:32)

Be self-sufficient, independent.  
(Psalms 127:1)

To be fearful.

To fight. (James 4:1-3)

To quarrel.  
(Isaiah 45:9, Prov. 17:14, Prov. 20:3)

**Read:** Matt. 6:25-33; emphasis on vs. 32

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# The secret to **ABIDING**: *Relationship and Intimacy.*

Striving is the behavior of the gentiles (those who are not partakers of the Covenant of God).

**Read:** Matthew 6:32 NASB

“For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for Your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”

*Actively pursuing* a meaningful connection with the Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit... this intimacy leads to a walk of revelation from Heaven.

It also leads us into the Counsel of the Lord (the dimension where “*things that eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man*” can be found – 1 Corinthians 2:9)

This intimacy also brings delight.

**Read:** Psalm 37:4 NASB

“Delight Yourself (cause your heart to become like putty in His hand) in the Lord; and he will give you the desires of your heart.”

**Read:** John 15:14-16 14 NASB

“You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all the things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

In the eyes of God and the culture of His Kingdom, a friend is one who loves and is willing to lay down his life for the ones he loves. A true friendship with Jesus is intertwined with a shared purpose flowing from the heart of the Father, for the benefit of those around us, ultimately bringing glory to His Name.

**Read:** Psalm 25:14 NASB

The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant.”

Forsaking the striving and *embracing the abiding* brings you into a place of:

**Covenant:** Appropriating the power of the Cross; that gives us access to the Throne of Mercy and Grace. (Heb. 4:16)

**Connection:** Appropriating this covenant empowers you to develop intimate relationship with God.

**Co-Laboring:** This intimacy facilitates a surrendering to His purposes, thus walking in obedience and promptly acting upon the sound of His voice.

We are important to God.

This is the abundant life He has created us for.

And it is our choice to walk in it.



