



The Beginning of Your Journey with Jesus Christ

Scripture: John 15:1–11 (Relax and read this passage seeking Him))

Jesus Is Inviting You

Have you ever found yourself trying harder to be a better Christian, only to end up discouraged?

Maybe you've promised yourself, "Tomorrow I'll do better." Maybe you have been trying to pray more, read your Bible more consistently, or overcome a struggle through determination alone. Yet somehow, you find yourself feeling weary instead of joyful.

If that's where you are today, let the words of Jesus Christ speak to you.
Not my words. His words. He says, "**Abide in Me.**"

Those three words are not another burden for you to carry. They are an invitation from the One who loves you- Christ.

Jesus is not asking you to carry the Christian life on your shoulders.
He is inviting you to remain close to Him.

What Does It Mean to Abide?

When Jesus says, "Abide in Me," He is inviting you into a relationship, not a religious performance. To abide simply means to remain. To stay close. To make your home in Him.

Think about a branch on a vine. The branch does not struggle to produce fruit by itself. It simply remains connected to the vine, and life flows through it.
Jesus is saying that your life with Him is much the same.
The closer you remain to Him, the more His life will shape yours.

A Lie You May Be Believing

Perhaps you've believed that if you just tried harder, prayed longer, or worked more diligently, you would finally become the person God wants you to be. So many people believe this lie. Many sincere believers carry that burden.

However, Jesus doesn't say, "**Try harder.**"

He says, "**Abide in Me.**"

There is a world of difference here.



Understand, your hope has never rested in your ability to hold on to Christ.
Understand, your hope rests in His faithfulness to hold on to you as you continue to trust Him. Don't miss this.

When the truth of God's Word penetrates your heart, the lie begins to lose its hold on you.
Learn to let the truth found in God's Word, expose the lie for what it is- a lie.
Understand, you don't have to earn the life that Jesus freely gives. You can't.
Jesus invites you simply to remain with Him.

What Difference Does This Make?

If you will let this truth penetrate your heart, this changes the way you live every day.
You don't open your Bible because you're trying to check a box.
You open it because you want to hear the voice of Jesus.
You don't pray because you're afraid God will be disappointed if you don't.
You pray because you know your Heavenly Father delights in spending time with you.

When you stumble, you don't run away from Jesus in shame.
You run to Him.
When you're weak, you don't pretend to be strong. You depend on Him.

Understand, when you learn to walk in this truth- abiding in-Christ, the Christian life becomes less about striving and more about simply staying close to the One who loves you- Jesus Christ.

How Should This Shape the Way You Live?

In this moment and beyond, don't ask yourself, "How can I try harder?"
Instead, ask, "**How can I stay closer to Jesus today and every day forward?**"
Maybe that means opening His Word before you reach for your phone.
Maybe it means talking with Him throughout your day.
Maybe it means quietly thanking Him for His faithfulness.
The truth is abiding isn't complicated.
It's choosing, over and over with each day, to remain near to the One who has promised never to leave you or forsake you- Jesus Christ.

A Prayer

Father, thank You for loving me enough to send Your Son- Jesus Christ.
Teach me to abide in Jesus today.

When I begin to rely on my own strength, gently draw me back to Him.
Help me to love Your Word, trust Your promises, and follow wherever Jesus leads.
May my life become more like His as I remain close to Him.
In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



An Invitation

Before you move on with your day, take a few quiet moments and re-read John 15:1–11 for yourself. Don't rush. Read it slowly. Let the Word of God speak to you.

Then ask Jesus one simple question: **"Lord, what does abiding in You look like for me today?"**

Sit quietly for a few moments.

Let His Word settle into your heart.

The invitation Jesus gave His disciples is the same invitation He gives you today.

Remain in Him.

As you do, you'll discover that the Christian life is not about becoming busy for Jesus.

It is about walking with Him, one day at a time.

And as you walk with Him, you'll find that the greatest gift He gives you is not merely strength, peace, or freedom.

The greatest gift He gives you is Himself.