

Fruitfulness through Abiding in Him!

John 15:1 **I am the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch **in me** that beareth not **fruit** he **taketh away**: and every *branch* that beareth **fruit**, he **purgeth it**, that it may bring forth more **fruit**. 3 Now ye are **clean through the word** which I have spoken unto you. 4

Abide in me, and I in you. As

the branch cannot bear **fruit** of itself, except it **abide**

in the vine; no more can ye, except ye

abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the

branches: He that **abideth in me, and**

I in him, the same bringeth forth much **fruit**: for

without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man **abide not**

in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye **abide in me,** and my words **abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much **fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples. 9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. 10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall **abide in my love;** even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and **abide in his love.**

1. My fruitfulness is first the work of the Father [John 15:1](#) I am the true vine, and **my Father is the husbandman.** 2 Every branch in me that beareth not

fruit **he taketh away:** and every *branch* that beareth **fruit, he purgeth it,** that it may bring forth more **fruit.** 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much **fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.

- a. The Father is the husbandman, the keeper of the vine
 - i. The work belongs to the Father
 - ii. The Father is in charge of the work
 - iii. The Father is causing fruit to be produced
 - iv. The fruit progresses through the work of the Father
 1. By being in the vine we will bear fruit 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth **fruit,**
 2. He causes us to bring forth more fruit. he purgeth it, that it may bring forth **more fruit.**
 3. He causes forth much fruit 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth **much fruit:** for without me ye can do nothing.

4. His work in our lives causing us to bring forth much fruit glorifies Him as He causes us to be useful to His kingdom **8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit;** so shall ye be my disciples.

b. The Father is at work in the life of the branch so that it will bring forth fruit

i. He takes it away **2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:** and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

1. The Father works in our lives to cause us to bear fruit
2. He will remove whatever is in the way
3. The idea is that He lives us or does whatever is best and causes us to be fruitful

ii. He purges it **2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:** and every *branch* that beareth fruit, **he purgeth it,** that it may bring forth more fruit.

1. Works in our lives to get the sin out of our lives
2. He cuts out of us what shouldn't be there

c. He is glorified when we bring forth fruit **8** Herein is **my Father glorified**, that ye bear much **fruit**; so shall ye be my disciples.

2. Jesus is the true vine! **1** **I am the true vine**, and my Father is the husbandman.

a. We are branches of the vine **5** **I am the vine**, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

b. He is the source of all life

c. Without Him we can do nothing

d. Fruitfulness comes from His life flowing through us

e. Consider what He has done in our lives

i. He took my place **II Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him *to be sin* for us, who knew no sin; that we might be **made the righteousness of God in him**. **I Peter 3:18** For Christ also hath once **suffered for sins**, the just for the unjust, that he might **bring us to God**, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: **I Peter 2:24** Who **his own self bare our sins in his**

own body on the tree, that we, being **dead to sins, should live unto righteousness:** by whose stripes ye were healed.

- ii. He saved us [Galatians 2:16](#) Knowing that a man is **not justified by the works** of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be **justified by the faith of Christ,** and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.
- iii. He made us a new creature [II Corinthians 5:17](#)
Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
- iv. He gave us His nature [II Peter 1:3-4](#) According as **his divine power hath given unto us all things** that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **4**
Whereby are **given unto us** exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye **might be partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

- f. As new creatures we continue living our new lives the same way we got the new life, helplessly believing. Grace working in us! **Colossians 2:6-7** **As ye have therefore received** Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk ye** in him: **7** Rooted and built up **in him**, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
- g. He lives His life out through us! **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. **Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
- h. It is not what we do for Him but what He did in us and is doing now **II Corinthians 9:8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

3. Our part is abiding in Him

a. We are to abide in Him **6** If a man **abide not in me,** he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

b. His Words are to abide in me, His promises **7** If ye **abide in me,** and my words **abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

c. Hudson Taylor's Spiritual Secret is based on this passage! And gives a good description about how to abide in Christ!

As mission leader, Hudson Taylor endured intense stress. Moreover, he was waging an inner conflict,

"I hated myself; I hated my sin; and yet I gained no strength against it."

He prayed, agonized, made resolutions, read Scripture, but with little effect. **The more he struggled for holiness and vitality, the more it eluded his grasp.**

He realized, "in Christ was all I needed, but the practical question was how to get it out...? **Christ is rich, but I am poor; He is strong, but I am weak.**"

Taylor read a young worker's letter reporting his own discovery - **"To let my loving Savior work in me His will...**

Abiding, not striving and struggling...

Not a striving to have faith, but a looking to the faithful One seems all we need. A resting..." wrote the co-worker.

Amazed at his own blindness, Taylor's inner eyes were now opened. "I looked to Jesus and I saw... I have striven in vain to abide in Him. I'll strive no more. For has He not promised to abide in me ...?"

Taylor's struggle to "get it out" of Christ were mistaken. "I am one with Christ! I am part of Him, as a branch of the vine!" he exclaimed to the household.

Hudson Taylor had discovered a spiritual secret and it changed his life. **He had grasped the "blessed reality 'Christ lives in me.'**

now Hudson could testify, "The sweetest part, ... is the rest which **full identification with Christ brings.** I am no longer anxious about anything."

Do you know, I now think that this striving, longing, hoping for better days to come is not the true way to holiness, happiness or usefulness. It is better, no doubt, far better than being satisfied with poor attainments, but not the best way after all.

. . . . To let my loving Savior work in me His will, my sanctification, is what I would live for by His grace.

Abiding, not striving nor struggling;

looking off unto Him;

trusting Him for present power; . . .

resting in the love of an almighty Savior,

in the joy of a complete salvation, "from all sin"--this is not new, and yet 'tis *new to me*

Christ literally *all* seems to me, now, the power, the only power for service, the only ground for unchanging joy

How then to have our faith increased? **Only by thinking of all that Jesus is and all He is for us: His life, His death, His work, He Himself as revealed to us in the Word, to be the subject of our constant thoughts.**

Not a striving to have faith . . . but a looking off to the Faithful One seems all we need; a resting in the Loved One entirely, for time and eternity.

Perhaps I may make myself more clear if I go back a little. . . . I prayed, agonized, fasted, strove, made resolutions, read the Word more diligently, sought more time for meditation--but all without avail. Every day, almost every hour, the consciousness sin oppressed me.

I knew that if only I could abide in Christ all would be well, but I could not. I would begin the day with prayer, determined not to take my eye off Him for a moment, but pressure of duties, sometimes very trying, and constant interruptions apt to be so wearing, caused me to forget Him.

Then one's nerves get so fretted in this climate that temptations to irritability, had thoughts and sometimes unkind

words are all the more difficult to control. Each day brought its register of sin and failure, of lack of power.

To will was indeed "present with me," but how to perform I found not.

Then came the questions, is there no rescue?

Must it be thus to the end--constant conflict, and too often defeat?

Instead of growing stronger, I seemed to be getting weaker and to have less power against sin; and no longer, for faith and even hope were getting low.

I hated myself, I hated my sin, yet gained no strength against it. I felt I *was* a child of God. His Spirit in my heart would cry, in spite of all, "Abba, Father."

But to rise to my privileges as a child, I was utterly powerless. I knew I was powerless.

I told the Lord so, and asked Him to give me help and strength.

Sometimes I almost believed that He would keep and uphold me; but on looking back in the evening--alas! There was but sin and failure to confess and mourn before God.

. . . . And yet, never did Christ seem more precious; a Savior who could and would save such a sinner! . . . And sometimes there were seasons not only of peace but of joy in the Lord; but they were transitory, and at best there was a sad lack of power.

I knew full well that there was in the root, the stem, abundant fatness, but how to get it into my puny little branch was the question.

As gradually light dawned, I saw that **faith was the only requisite**--was the hand to lay hold on His fullness and make it mine.

But I had not this faith.

I strove for faith, but it would not come; I tried to exercise it, but in vain. Seeing more and more the wondrous supply of grace laid up in Jesus, the fullness of our precious Savior, my guilt and helplessness seemed to increase.

Sins committed appeared but as trifles compared with the sin of unbelief which was their cause, which could not or would not take God at His word. . . . I prayed for faith, but it came not. What was I to do?

When my agony of soul was at its height, a sentence in a letter from dear McCarthy was used to remove the scales from my eyes, and the Spirit of God revealed to me the truth of our *oneness with Jesus* as I had never known it before.

"But how to get faith strengthened? Not by striving after faith, but by resting on the Faithful One."

As I read, I saw it all!

"If we believe not, he abideth faithful." I looked to Jesus and saw (and when I saw, oh, how joy flowed)! That He had said, "*I will never leave thee.*"

"Ah, *there* is rest!" I thought. "I have striven in vain to rest in Him. I'll strive no more. For has not *He* promised to abide with *me*--never to leave me, never to fail me?" And, . . . *He never will.*

. . . . As I thought of the Vine and the branches, what light the blessed Spirit poured direct into my soul!

How great seemed my mistake in wishing to get the sap, the fullness *out* of Him! I saw not only that Jesus will ever leave me, but that I am a member of His body, of His flesh and of His bones.

The vine is not the root merely, but *all*--root, stem, branches, twigs, leaves, flowers, fruit.

And Jesus is not that alone--He is soil and sunshine, air and showers, and ten thousand times more than we have ever dreamed, wished for or needed.

Oh, the joy of seeing this truth! I do pray that the eyes of your understanding too may be enlightened, that you may know and enjoy the riches freely given us in Christ.

. . . It is a wonderful thing **to be really one with a risen and exalted Savior, to be a member of Christ!** Think what it involves.

Can Christ be rich and I poor? Can your right hand be rich and your left poor?

Or your head be well fed while your body starves? No more can your prayers or mine be discredited if offered in the name of Jesus (i.e., not for the sake of Jesus merely, but on the ground that we are His, His members) so long as we keep within the limits of Christ's credit--a tolerably wide limit!

The sweetest part, . . . is the rest which full identification with Christ brings.

I am no longer anxious about anything, as I realize this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine.

It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest position He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient. . . .

So, if God should place me in serious perplexity, must He not give me much guidance; in positions of great difficulty, much grace; in circumstances of great pressure and trials, much strength?

No fear that His resources will prove unequal to the emergency! And His resources are mine, for He is mine, and is with me and dwells in me.

And since Christ has thus dwelt in my heart by faith, how happy I have been! . . . *I* am no better than before. In a sense, I do not wish to be, nor am I striving to be.

But I am dead and buried with Christ--ay, and risen too! And now Christ lives in me, and "the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

. . . . Do not let us consider Him as far off, when God has made us one with Him, members of His very body. Nor should we look upon this experience, these truths, as for the few. They are the birthright of every child of God, and no one can dispense with them without dishonoring our Lord. The only power for deliverance from sin or for true service is *Christ*. And it is all so simple and practical!

"But are you always conscious of this abiding in Christ?" Mr. Taylor was asked many years later.

"While sleeping last night," he replied, "did I cease to abide in your home because I was unconscious of the fact? We should never be conscious of *not* abiding in Christ."

I change, He changes not;
The Christ can never die:
His truth, not mine, the resting place;
His love, not mine, the tie.

4. Practical steps to take to be fruitful

- a. Realize that He is at work in me!
- b. Realize that my strength and life comes from the Lord Jesus
- c. Act on what you know **Romans 6:11** Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- d. Give yourself to Him and whatever plans He has for you **Romans 6:19** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: **for as ye have yielded**

your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity
unto iniquity; **even so now** yield your members
servants to righteousness unto holiness.

e. Trust Him and rest in Him and who He is, who He made
you

f. Be not do!