

## Abiding In Him – Part 4

We came into the Kingdom of God through the doorway of salvation; then we looked at faith, the fuel of the spirit realm. Then we began to address this position in the Kingdom of God called abiding in Him. We first dealt with principles that we have been given by which we come to this position called abiding in Him and principles that we use to remain in this position called abiding in Him. Then we moved on to look at the place of abiding.

Next poster. We began by looking at examples of abiding to learn more about the heart of people who seem to come into this position in Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, and concluded by looking at Jesus as in all things, as our model of abiding as Jesus abiding in the Father totally so. We ended last time by using that springboard of Jesus abiding in the Father to understand the two meanings of in His name. We looked at John 14:13 and verse 14 where Jesus basically says twice whatever you ask in My name, that will I do. And then contrasted that with John 15:7 where the outcome is the same; He says ask whatever you wish and it will be given you. But the wording is different. In John 15:7, instead of saying whatever you ask in My name, He says if you abide in Me, all that you ask will be given to you. In other words, my interpretation is in the understanding and meaning of Jesus, in My name and abiding in Him are used synonymously. So that we learn from that that whatever we ask in His name as an utterance, we're to be speaking from a position, praying from a position of in His name—meaning abiding in Him.

So picking up from that point and going forward, James tells us a similar spiritual principle; but uses different words about how to receive from Jesus in prayer. James 4:2-3 basically tells us you do not have because you do not ask. So the first step to receiving anything from God is to ask. But simply asking is not sufficient. James goes on to explain, you ask and do not receive. Why? Because you ask with wrong motives. Asking with wrong motives in the book of James is equivalent to asking in His name without being in a position of in His name. If we're not asking from a position of abiding in Him or of wanting to abide in Him, then our motives are wrong. And then we're left speaking only the utterance in His name without functioning in the position of in His name; and thus, we do not receive. Earlier James told us another principle of receiving from God. James 1:5-8 – But if any of you lacks wisdom let him ask of God. But let him ask in faith without any doubting for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind; for let that man not expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, for this one is double-minded and unstable in all his ways. So, yes, we receive from God when we pray, but there are several components lying beneath that. We must ask; we must ask in faith without doubting; we must ask with the right motives. Now those are complete when we pray in His name with the utterance while being in a position of in His name, meaning abiding in Him. Abiding in Him and single-mindedness can be thought of as the same thing.

So where are we at this point in regard to abiding in Him? We're absorbing various components of this place. We've come to understand that this is His house; this is His

presence. We've come into His name as a reality and not just an utterance tagged on to the end of a prayer with whatever motivation. We come into His rest; this is where we come into communion. This is where we come into the place of walking with Him as Enoch did. We have come to the end of our faith and into the fullness of Christ being our fullness including functioning in His faith; because Jesus is the finisher of our faith. If you have used your faith to come into Jesus Christ and are single-mindedly living there, abiding there, capturing every thought that exalts itself against that position of being there, you will be stable and you are in that position of abiding in Him. It's where we pass from hearing into seeing as Job did. It's where we come to see Him as He is and less as we thought Him to be as we applied our natural minds to scale down what He's trying to tell us He truly is. It's where we give up thinking what He ought to be as we remain in a position of judging Him. It's where we begin to see Him clearly and less dimly. It's where we enter the crescendo of delight with God as Moses did. It's where we know His joy and His pleasures as David did. It's the place of being still and knowing Him as He is. It's where we behold Jesus; it's where we behold the beauty of Jesus. It's where we meditate constantly on that which we are beholding. It's where we are to dwell for the rest of our lives. That's where we become a man after God's own heart as David was described. It's where we function as Paul described where we rejoice always; pray without ceasing and in all things give thanks, for this is the will of God for you. It's where the love of God begins to be shed abroad in our hearts. It's where our hope truly does become fixed on the grace brought to us at the revelation of Jesus Christ as Peter wrote. It's where the Holy Spirit teaches us all things as Jesus described. It's where we learn the sufficiency of His grace that Jesus spoke to Paul. It's His house; it's where He lives; and it's where we now enter and stay there. That's where we rest in Him.

Now I do believe that the closer we come to the face of God through Jesus Christ, the less language we need; because all words come to mean the same thing the closer you get to God. That's why the chorus in Heaven is holy, holy, holy; because you don't need another adjective to describe God. Because everything has been swallowed up in the revelation of the other thanness of God, you see. So when I speak of love being a passion for oneness, that's not extra-Biblical; everything in the Bible gives testimony to it. When we are abiding in Him, we are in the position of oneness and the fulfillment of His love for us. When we are single-minded, we are abiding in Him and fulfilling oneness which is the fulfillment of His love. When we're summing up all things in Jesus, when we're capturing every thought to the obedience of Jesus; we're then functioning in a position of oneness which is the fulfillment of His love which is a passion that we come into oneness with Him. Recall Psalm 27:4, one of our core verses for this discussion, remember, David wrote – This one thing I ask for (but he didn't stop there), that I shall seek, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord every day of my life, to mediate on His law, and behold His beauty. That is the best Biblical description I know of abiding in Him. So let us now begin to behold the beauty of Jesus that we see at this place called abiding.

This is a summary poster. What is this place? Well I've written certain things that we've already talked about. Psalms 16:11 – It's in His presence, His fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forever. It's where we are in a position of in His name rather

than simply functioning in the utterance as a tag-on at the end of our prayers of being in His name. It's where we've entered His rest, where we've given up dead works, where we're living in the presence of God as described in Hebrews 4:9-11. Well what happens here? When you come into this place, you will be still and know; because you're seeing Jesus as He is. It's where you behold Jesus, behold His beauty and meditate on it as we just described in Psalm 27:4. And then we go forward as we will in this discussion today to look at the beauty of Jesus which is the summation of all these various components of who He is, what He is, and what He does.

Next poster. This is the summary poster to remind us of who this Jesus is. He's not just a cuddly Santa Claus to make us feel better about life and to be an opiate to diminish our anxiety until our time for death comes. He's not just the one Who's there to meet our every need as we see it. This Jesus is more than that. Colossians 1:15 – He's the image of the invisible God. You can't see God except you look at Jesus. Colossians 2:9 – The fullness of deity in bodily form; He is the Son of man; but He is the Son of God; He is God Himself. Hebrews 1:3 – Thus He is the radiance of the glory of God. Hebrews 1:3 (also) – He is the exact representation of the nature of God. Matthew 1:23 – He is Emanuel which means God with us. He is the God man. Matthew 17:5 – He is the Son of God in Whom the Father is well pleased. Hebrews 1:2 – In these last days the Father has spoken to us in His Son. That's how God speaks to us; He is the message of God. John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelled among us. He is the incarnate, living Word of God. John 14:9 – He who has seen Me has seen the Father. He's the likeness of God. You're not going to get an impression of God apart from seeing Him through Jesus. John 10:30 – My Father and I are one. He is the one God.

Now why do I list these Scriptures? Because we read them in isolation when we're reading certain books of the Bible (and certain chapters of the Bible); but we don't commonly pull them together to meditate on the beauty of Jesus Christ, as to who He is. Thus, we're left with little fear of the Lord in the sense of little awe and reverence of who Jesus is. He is God. And the place of abiding is where we receive that deeper revelation that He is, in fact, all these components poured together. He is God. That's when you have truly begun to behold Him as He is described in Scripture. Then in beholding the Son of God, who is the one God in incarnate form, how can everything else not become rubbish by comparison? And that's what then propels us into Christlikeness. Until we begin to see Him as He is, we're left functioning with our natural drives, our natural energies, our natural perseverance, accomplishing natural goals, functioning (in a word) in the flesh. But the place of abiding is where you can let go of all that. Instead of trying to change, you are changed as a result of seeing Him as He is. Jeremiah 32:39-40 – God says and I will plant the fear of Me in their hearts. Well this place of abiding is where we receive that fear of the Lord, meaning awe and reverence of God and specifically, awe and reverence of the Son of God. Well why should we have awe and reverence for Jesus Christ?

Next poster. Well all we have to do is remind ourselves who God is; because Jesus is that God. God is the only uncreated thing in all of existence. Everything else which exists was created by God. And He is the only self determined thing in all of existence;

remember, the only thing whose meaning and value is intrinsic within Himself. The meaning and value of everything else in all of existence is set by, determined by this God. Remember, if we're not in awe and reverence of this Being, we can't be in awe and reverence of anything because there's nothing else that comes close to this Being. And if we can't be in awe and reverence of anything, remember, we're in awe and reverence of ourselves, which is to remain in self worship—not God worship. So that's who Jesus is.

Next poster. Now let's begin to look at what He is; what is this Jesus? I'll read these, then we'll explore them. He is the essential characteristics of God: creator, judge, and lover. He is the fruits of the Spirit. He is the armor of God and He is the gifts of the Spirit.

Next poster. When we look at these three essential characteristics of God that we have to see function in harmony in order to understand how God has revealed Himself to us in the Bible, remember, the sovereign King, the passionate lover, and the fierce but righteous judge. God has spoken to us in His Son. That's what I just read from Hebrews. Well how about the sovereign majestic creator King? John 1:3, speaking of Jesus – All things came into being by Him and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. Colossians 1:16 – For by Him all things were created, both in the Heavens and on the Earth, visible and invisible—meaning spiritual and physical. All things have been created by Him and for Him. That's the fulfillment or explanation, if you will, of Genesis 1:1, in the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. The first verse in the Bible is describing the handiwork of this Jesus Who came later as our Savior. The last book in the Bible: Revelation 19:16 – And on His robe and on His thigh, He has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords. So in the beginning of the Bible and right through to the end of the Bible, it's describing the work and person of Jesus Christ. Philippians 3:21 – By the exertion of the power that He, Jesus, has even to subject all things to Himself. All things; remember, there's not one molecule in physical creation, and not one being in spiritual creation that is not subject to the power and authority of Jesus Christ.

Well how about the fierce but righteous judge? Matthew 28:18 – All authority has been given to Me, Jesus, in Heaven and in Earth. II Timothy 4:1 – Christ Jesus Who is to judge the living and the dead. And John 5:22 (in the words of Jesus Who is truth) – Not even the Father judges anyone; but He has given all judgment to the Son. So Jesus is the fierce but righteous judge described in the Bible. Well how about the passionate lover? Well that's easy to summarize because that's best expressed by Jesus as our Savior. The Bible even tells us that. I John 3:16 – We know love by this. So do you want to know what love is? Do you want to see love? How do you know love? That He, Jesus, laid down His life for us. Yes, the Father has revealed Himself to us in His Son; and the first part of seeing what Jesus is, is to see that Jesus is the revelation of the Godhead, in the fullness of its three major essences: a sovereign majestic creator King, passionate lover, and fierce but righteous judge. So what is Jesus? Well He's the revelation of God Himself because He is God Himself in all of the essential characteristics of God, what I call the essences.

Next poster. How about the fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22-23. The next major revelation is to see that Jesus is the fruits of the Spirit. These are not just any fruits; they are fruits of the Holy Spirit—the Holy Spirit, the other than Spirit, the third member of the Trinity. They are what God is. Remember, God does not produce any fruit in us that is not like Himself. Jesus is Love, Joy, Peace, Goodness, Kindness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Patience, and Self Control. In fact when we seek the fruit, it's simply part of seeking Christlikeness; because the fruit is what Jesus looks like. And we obtain the fruit, not through human exertions, so much as seeing who He is and what He is and what He looks like, regarding Him as beautiful, meditating on the beauty, beholding the beauty, and therefore, being transformed into the likeness; because if we truly regard that as beautiful, we will have everything else melt away which is less beautiful. But it comes about more by beholding Him and then becoming what you behold than it does through the human drive, through human exertion, through human effort. You will never have the fruit of the Spirit if you're not beholding the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Next poster. Well Jesus is the armor of God. That's described in Ephesians 6:13-17 – and we're told to put it on. Well what do we put on when we put on the armor of God? Gird your loins with truth. Well what is truth? Truth is what God is and how God views everything else. How do we know what truth is? We look at Jesus. He says I am the truth; I am God and I'm here to tell you and model for you how God views everything else. Put on the breastplate of righteousness. II Corinthians 5:21 – He made Him Who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. So how do we rest in God? We put on the righteousness of God provided for us through Jesus Christ. We don't have to achieve something to do that; it is given to us through our salvation. Shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; or Romans 5:1 – having been justified by faith, we have peace with God. Well how? Through our Lord, Jesus Christ. So when you're shodding your feet with the Gospel of peace, you're putting on Jesus Christ Who is our peace. The peace that Jesus provides is peace with God. Our war with God is over. God has paid the price through His Son Jesus Christ, you see. That's the only peace that we have. We don't have peace with men; because Jesus didn't come to bring peace with men. Don't think that I came to bring peace; I came to bring a sword; because you'll be judged by My Word, the Word of God, the sword of the Spirit, if you will. I came to separate parent from child, brother from sister. So the peace that we have is not peace with all men; the peace on Earth that we have is peace vertically with God because we've been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. That's the Gospel of peace that we have, that we don.

Take up the shield of faith. Galatians 2:20 (in the King James Version, Paul writes) – The life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved me and gave Himself for me. Remember the fundamental premise. When we have faith in Jesus, we have Jesus. Do you not know that the Spirit of Christ dwells within you? You have Jesus; you're now operating in Jesus, not in your trying to conjure up faith; your faith is in Jesus, and then Jesus becomes the end of all things. That's why you melt away. That's why you consider the old man dead because you're now in Jesus; and

you're operating in the faith of Jesus, the power of Jesus, the authority of Jesus, the love of Jesus, the peace of Jesus, the righteousness of Jesus, and so on.

Take the helmet of salvation. Acts 4:12 – And there is salvation in no one else for there is no other name under Heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. So the helmet that we're putting on is our helmet of salvation in Jesus Christ, and take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. John 1:1 and 1:14 – In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God; and that Word came to Earth in the flesh and dwelt among us. You see the main purpose of the written Word that we walk about with the Bible is to bear witness of Jesus Who is the Word, Who became the incarnate Word, so that He could display that He is truth; because He is God and He is testifying and modeling for us how God views all other things. That is the Word of God.

In summary, what are we doing when we put on the armor? All we're doing is fulfilling Romans 13:14 where we're told put on the Lord Jesus Christ. So when you begin to see that all these components of Scripture are simply describing for us Who Jesus is, what Jesus is, what our position is in Jesus, how things come to us through Jesus; then we spend more time beholding this Jesus and less time trying to use fleshly energy to fulfill Scripture, you see. Jesus is the armor of God.

Next poster. How about the gifts of the Spirit? Recall the gifts of the Spirit as recorded in I Corinthians 12:7-11. Faith – well Jesus is faith. Recall, He stood in faith, in the Father, while forsaken by the Father, while receiving the fullness of the wrath of the Father, so as to pay the price for all sins of the whole world for all time. There's no test of faith beyond that one. Jesus had no sin. Well what is not of faith, is sin. He had no sin, so He had nothing that was not of faith. Jesus simply was faith.

Knowledge – well Jesus had the fullness of knowledge of the Father, of the Spirit, of the circumstances, of the people around Him. Even in a small sense—Nathaniel, I saw you by the fig tree, before I could see you with physical eyes, I saw you where you were—that word of knowledge, if you will.

Wisdom – Every utterance from the mouth of Jesus spoke the wisdom of God. Remember, wisdom is that godly integration (adding together) and application of knowledge and understanding; those subcomponents of the truth of God. And Jesus functioned in the fullness of wisdom.

Healing – Oh, many examples of supernatural healings by Jesus.

Effecting other miracles -- Well simply recall the calming of the storm, the feeding of the thousands, the resurrection of Lazarus.

Prophecy – Both forth telling bluntly the truth of God and foretelling future events. He prophesied about even the end times in detail.

How about discernment of spirits? Well Jesus correctly discerned the heart, the motivation of all men with whom He came in contact and the manifestations of demons.

How about speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues? Well there's no Scriptural example of either in the life of Jesus. We don't have to speculate as to why, for it's obvious when we take the sum of His Word. While Jesus was on planet Earth, no one else had the Holy Spirit by which to speak in tongues; therefore, there were no tongues for Jesus to interpret. Likewise, no one else had the Holy Spirit by which to interpret tongues; therefore, if Jesus had spoken in tongues in the company of others, no one was there to interpret. And Scripture admonishes us, even today, to not speak in tongues in public unless there is someone to interpret.

Thus allowing for the one understandable exception of tongues, we can see that Jesus is the gifts of the Spirit. Now personally I believe since Jesus is everything else that we're to become, He is everything else that we're to do, then I believe that Jesus spoke in tongues in His private prayer life; although obviously, there is no scriptural basis for documenting that; thus, it can't be doctrinal for me nor for anyone else. I say that and don't consider it a stretch just because of Luke 4:1 – Jesus full of the Holy Spirit was led about by the Spirit; and it tells us that through the Spirit, by the Spirit, Jesus endured the cross. So everything that Jesus did was by the Spirit of God. So I don't think it a stretch to speculate that perhaps in His private prayer life, He spoke in tongues to the Father in the middle of the night.

Next poster. We get down to the point of what Jesus does. Well, what does He do? Well I'll make this concluding part short and sweet. What He has done: He has saved us. He has paid for the sins of the whole world. John 3:16-17 – For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, and concludes that the world should be saved through Him. That's a fact. What He is doing: Well one obvious thing, He's interceding for us. Hebrews 7:25 – Hence also, He, Jesus, is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He, Jesus, always lives to make intercession for them. That intercession may be in prayer, it may be as our advocate before the Father, He clearly is the one mediator between God and man, and it may be the direct interaction by dispensing the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us and to empower us. Because the Holy Spirit takes which is of Jesus and gives to us. The Holy Spirit does nothing of His own initiative, you see. Well, what about what Jesus will do? Well simply stated, He will come for us and He will keep us with Him forever. It takes both things together. I Thessalonians 4:16 and 18 – For the Lord, Himself, will descend from Heaven for those who have already died and for those who are yet alive to meet the Lord in the air; and thus, we shall always be with the Lord. I don't know that I would want Jesus to come for me, to meet me in the air, if I couldn't be with Him from that point on. We will be with the Lord always and that means after the rapture, in Heaven, it then means with Him at His second coming, it means reigning with Him in the millennial kingdom for a thousand years on Earth, and it means in the new Earth, in the New Jerusalem for eternity forever. We will always be with the Lord.

So today, we looked at this position that I consider the intermediate point between salvation and Christlikeness. We looked at how to get to this point by applying the principles to abide by, the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven that we've been given. We saw how we get a deeper revelation of Jesus here; almost, remember, like being born again to know what happened when you got born again. We saw that this includes Who He is, what He is; He is God. He is the revelation of the three essences of God. He is the fruit of the Spirit. He is the armor of God. He is the gifts of the Spirit. We looked at what He has done, what He is doing and what He will do, at least in summary fashion. And all of that plus more taken together is to behold the beauty of the Lord. And then we meditate on that beauty; because all progress on our journey as Christians to that position of Christlikeness, which is our goal, is dependent on the clarity and the fullness of the revelations that we get about Who this Jesus is. That's why we pause here; because this is the place that we are to go to, and then the place that we're to remain in, and everything else we do as Christians is to be from a position of functioning in this position as our basis. That's the place that we take with us from that moment on. It's the place of abiding in Him. Now remember Ephesians 1:10 – speaks of the place of summing up all things in Jesus. That's the plan of God. So this position of abiding in Him is nothing more than when we are summing up all things in Jesus. He is beautiful. Meditate on it. Fix your hope completely on it. Fix your gaze upon Him; because He is in us. He's made Himself accessible and available to us; it's all in you. Do you not know that the Kingdom of God is within you?

It's faith that brought us here; but faith, remember, doesn't stop here. Faith works; faith works for salvation, and faith works after salvation. We're saved by faith for good works. So our faith is to work. Well how does faith work? Galatians 5:6 – Faith works through love. So the next time that we come together, we're going to take this position of abiding, meditate on the beauty of the Lord and look at the abiding love of God. But first we have to come to that position of abiding; because the love of God is only known when you're gazing at the beauty of Jesus and receiving the major revelation of the totality of the love of God. That's then the link that propels you onward to Christlikeness. But it only happens when you apply these principles to abide by, when you come to this place, summing all things up in Jesus, behold Jesus Christ, consider Him the fullness of beauty, meditate on Him day and night thereafter in this place called abiding, and then the love of God that you see is shed abroad in your heart and it is that love that propels you onward in the Christian life and it is beautiful. And we'll address that the next time we come together.

So thank you for listening.