



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

April 2015

*"Spring has sprung,"* my dad used to say. With spring, we see new growth. We see the remnants of winter, though the flowers bloom and the trees leaf out.

I see a picture of this in our spiritual lives. We sometimes go through a season of winter and dryness and then, we come out into the *"full orbed sun,"* as Oswald Chambers used to say. We see this in our own lives, and we see this in the lives of our "eternal" brothers and sisters in Christ.

How do we handle this?

In your life, and in your daily fellowship with God, when you begin to experience a barrenness of soul, recognize apathy is knocking at your door.

- Don't give in! Immediately stop what you are doing, and simply carry on a conversation with God about it. Listen to Him and do exactly what He tells you.
- Begin again to read and meditate on God's Word.
- Practice His presence moment by moment. Remember what He has said:

... for He Himself has said, *"I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you"* **Hebrews 13:5**

*"... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* **Matthew 28:20**

What about the life of a friend? When one of your brothers and sisters in Christ are going through a barrenness of soul, what can you do?

- Don't give up on them! Intercede for them. In a sense, get into their shoes and look through their eyes and feel what they feel, as you sit before the Lord. Pray and wait.
- Encourage them to return to those first things, personal prayer and God's Word.
- Remind them, God is grieved and quenched when we act independently of Him.

Always remember how patient God has been with you. It is a way of God, and it should be the way we respond to those who are walking in a wilderness out of the will of God.

Sometimes it's better to say little about their condition and simply watch God work.



Chris Hodges  
President & CEO

Exciting news! Abiding Above Ministries will host a 13-Day Journey, *Legacy of the Apostle Paul!* This is a Mediterranean Cruise, aboard the ship *Rhapsody of the Seas* with Royal Caribbean International Cruise Line.

Departure date is September 14, 2015. We will retrace the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul. Our ports of calls will be Rome, Naples, and Pompeii, Italy. Crete, Mykonos, Santorini, Corinth, and Athens, Greece. Miletus and Ephesus, Turkey. We will explore Christian and Ancient Rome. We will see the Acropolis, Parthenon, original Olympic Stadium, and climb Mars Hill, where Paul preached the gospel to the intellectual Athenian community of his day (Acts 17:15-34). We will stand on the Bema, where Paul defended the gospel. We will tour the Colosseum, built in 72 AD, and still the largest amphitheater in the world. And much, much more!

For more information, call or write to Carolyn Alsip 901-590-9890 and [calsip@abidingabove.org](mailto:calsip@abidingabove.org)  
I hope you will come on this once in a lifetime journey!

Abiding Above Ministries continues to share the gospel around the world, and the Abiding Above with Christ Hodges Radio Broadcast can now be heard on The Finding My Way Radio Network with Kayla Padgett @ [findingmywaychannel.com](http://findingmywaychannel.com).

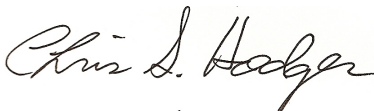
My friend, you and I are partners in ministry together. Everything we are able to do here at Abiding Above Ministries is because of your faithfulness to God, which enable us to see the gospel of Jesus Christ going out through the Internet and through Radio Broadcasting. Don't take for granted the part you play. Your financial support is making an eternal difference for the kingdom of God. We cannot do this without you, and we don't want to do this without you! Many of you have been a part of the Abiding Above Ministries team for the past 10 years, and one day we will hear God speak these words, *"Well done my good and faithful servant."*

We can see that the days ahead are gloriously dark, so let's continue on in the Spirit, and remember these spoken words by C.T. Studd;

*"Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last.  
And when I am dying, how happy I'll be  
That the light of my life was burned out for Thee."*

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving. We love you and we need you!

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges  
President  
Abiding Above Ministries  
Colossians 3:1-3