

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

February 2014

We continue to praise the Lord for your prayers and financial support!

God is using Abiding Above Ministries in the lives of people. Here is a letter from a woman who is going through our discipleship lessons that are provided to her and hundreds of others by your financial gifts!

Dear Rev. Hodges,

I have just completed the “A Country Called Heaven” series and wanted to thank you for making these wonderful studies available to the public, free for the asking. I have been passing Book 1 along to people that I disciple at Impact Ministries for the past eight years, but never took the time to read it myself. The Lord laid it on my heart back in November 2013 that I could benefit by going through the study myself. I have just completed the ninth book and words can’t express how much I’ve enjoyed these studies.

I have to share one little thing with you: Every time I would get a new book I would hurry up and finish it, put the test back in the mail and watch for the next book to arrive. After I mailed my eighth lesson to you for grading it was about 2 weeks before I received it back. I realized it had gotten lost somewhere in the mail. I either forgot to put a stamp on it or it ended up in someone else’s mail because there was a beautiful Christmas stamp that had been placed on it somewhere in the process in order for it to reach your office. God placed that little lost piece of mail in the hands of someone that wanted me to complete this study and they used their own stamp to make it happen.

Friend, you make this happen! To God be the glory! We know this is happening with many more through these paper missionaries, called discipleship lessons.

Write to us, and we will send you the first lesson to begin your spiritual growth journey. You will be surprised what God does with you when you become intentional about spiritual growth.

Jesus said in **Matthew 5: 14-16** - *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”*

Jesus was teaching in these verses that the supreme function of the light is to shine. My friend, we are to shine for Jesus in our home just like a candle on a candlestick. Sometimes the people who are most vocal in prayer meetings have little or no testimony in their homes. Our witness in the world will count for little if there is no real testimony of our witness in our home with our family. We are also to shine for Jesus publicly. The light that shines brightest shines farthest. Wherever you go as a Christian, people should see the beauty of Jesus in you. This is not to say we should endeavor to draw attention to ourselves, but rather that we should reflect the glory of God in the person of Jesus Christ. People are not to see our lamps, but the light!

There was a little boy was taken by his mother to see a famous cathedral as an afternoon excursion. As he saw the sunbeams shining through the stained glass windows he asked the minister, *“Who are those people on the windows?”* *“They are saints,”* the minister whispered. Later that evening, the little boy’s father asked him what he had learned at the cathedral. The little boy said, *“I now know what saints are. They are people who let the light shine through.”*

I want to encourage you to live a surrendered life to the control of the Holy Spirit Who lives inside of you. His light in you will shine brightly, only if you surrender.

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

Let’s lay all pettiness aside and simply walk with Jesus. Let’s go about sharing the gospel story in an understandable way, and encourage everyone we know, and those we meet in spiritual growth. That is finishing well! Everything else we leave behind.

Please continue to pray for us. We could use a financial shot in the arm if God’s Spirit leads you to give.

Abiding above,



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