



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

January 2016

It seems like yesterday we were celebrating 2014, and entering into 2015. And now here it is 2016! I can remember how odd it seemed to think of the year 2000. My dad often said, "*Time stands still for no man.*" It's true; time keeps marching on, but when you think about it, time is only a name for a block of human history that God put into motion. We know the story of creation and of Adam and Eve. The complete story of the Bible and modern history up to this very day is a moment in eternity we call time. You see, eternity has no beginning and will have no end. God is eternal, and our spirit and soul are eternal apart from these bodies. So, we live in this moment called time that God orchestrated and which will someday come to an end.

Acts 17:24-28a - "*The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist ...*"

Since this is true, see your life in light of an eternity that will never end, "*...**For in Him we live and move and exist.***" This means that we can wake up each morning choosing to walk by the immediate control of the Holy Spirit and all that we do for Christ will last for all eternity.

This is what will be required of us in being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We must be living in the last days! We must be more intentional in what God has called us to do and less carried along by this present world's system.

If we are to live and move and have our being in Christ Jesus, it will require for us to surrender everything to God.

Luke 14:26 - "*If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*"

Notice what Jesus said here, although He was looking into the faces of a large crowd He seems to be talking to only a few. Jesus said, "*If anyone comes to Me ...*"



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

My friend, Jesus is calling you today and asking you this, *“Will you step out of line and be a real disciple?”*

After Jesus wooed men, He would then challenge them. It is at this point that we can safely separate the Christian from the Disciple. A Christian is one who has received Jesus into his heart. A disciple is one who has surrendered EVERYTHING to Jesus and is following Him faithfully...even unto death. A disciple is one who has this mindset in principle and practice: **Though None Go With Me I Still Will Follow!**

The true disciple will love Jesus Christ supremely. There is total devotion! Every other love in our lives must seem like hate when compared to our love for Jesus Christ! This total devotion is simply the fulfillment of **Mark 12:30** – Where Jesus said, *“.... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength....”*

This year my friend, like never before, let's be intentional about serving God with your whole heart and entire being. Let's have the heart and mind of the Apostle Paul who said,

"Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:12-14

Thank you for serving and giving to God through Abiding Above Ministries. People we will never meet all over the world hear the saving message of Jesus Christ, and the liberating message of who the believer is in Christ through radio and online through our website www.abidingabove.org.

You make this happen! Many people continue to sign up and go through our Bible lesson discipleship program through the mail. You pay for these lessons and the postage; this allows these discipleship programs to go on and on!

It is our prayer this year that God will increase all that you put your mind and hands to, and that your purpose and desire will be to serve the Lord with your whole heart. One day you will hear those affirming words, *"Well done good and faithful servant, you were faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."* **Matthew 25:23**

Abiding above,



President

Abiding Above Ministries

Colossians 3:1-3