



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

May 2014

I pray you and your family had a lovely Easter, as you reflected on the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It is because sin entered the world, that God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His blood to pay for the sin that alienated mankind from God. Aren't you glad that He loves you that much?

You see, the scriptures tell us that on the first Easter, that Jesus drew near to His disciples on the Emmaus Road, and at first they did not recognize Him – **Luke 24:16** – “*But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him,*” and furthermore they were sad, **Luke 24:17** – “*And He said to them, “What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?” And they stood still, looking sad.*”

Because Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave, He stands ready for anyone who wants to enter into an eternal relationship with Him. For the children of God, there is no more sadness because every child of God is a spiritual being, made in the image of God.

How many times has He walked with you and you simply did not recognize Him? You can be certain of one thing, and that is that God never leaves His children; we leave Him. Sin will hinder us from seeing God, and leave us empty and asking, “Where is God?” God should not be the last person we turn to, but the first person we turn to. Are you trying to fill an inner emptiness in your life that only He can fill by using this world's trappings as a substitute for significance and satisfaction? My friend, it will never work. Maybe you used to be closer to God than you are at this moment and you long to get back in His Word and in fellowship. If this is the case for you, know this, it can change today. Simply get alone with God and tell Him what has happened and repent of the wrong decisions you have made. Begin again to pursue God and His Word, because God has never stopped pursuing you.

You see, God's Word is not mere intellectual light, but it is spiritual life. It is the eyes of our heart that need to be enlightened. You need to begin today to read God's Word as His love letter to you, and when you do, things will begin to change because you will begin to change.

Truth has a way of setting you free and we see this in **John 8:32** – “*and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.*”



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

My friend, we will all have moments of sadness in this life, and there will be times when we simply need to go back to the beginning, so it is important that we keep learning and growing in the word of God.

I want to share with you a portion of a letter that we received from an individual whom we are discipling through the mail with our Abiding Above Discipleship School:

“The most important things I have learned in my New Life In Christ course are as follows:

*I learned that Jesus Christ is my intercessor. Jesus is praying for me everyday. I believe that praying for each other is the most important thing we can do for someone, to know that Jesus is praying **for me** to win the daily battle is an overwhelming feeling. When I sin, I ask for forgiveness. I know that Jesus is interceding for **me**, to restore my fellowship with my Heavenly Father.*

*I learned that Jesus is the great “**I AM**”, the one who will meet all my needs. Whenever and wherever I have a need. When I need strength or hope for the day, or I need patience, Jesus said, “I AM your strength, patience, hope, ‘**I AM**’ whatever you need.”*

*I read about Heaven and the judgment and what that will be like. I am so excited to **know** that Heaven will be my home someday, and I will meet Jesus face to face, what a day that will be.*

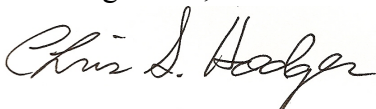
I read about believers and how they will be judged, that some will be ashamed because even though they are saved and love the Lord, they did not live their lives for the Lord all the time. I know I have much work to do, to live a better Christian life, to glorify Christ in all I do. Have you ever heard the sidewalk Prophets song, “Live Like That?” There is a verse that says, “Everything I say and do points to you, I wanna live like that.” This song says what I want my life to be like when people see me. I want them to know that I am a follower of Jesus Christ!

Thanks again, your friend, Steve”

Is this the desire of your heart? Do you want people to know that you are a follower of Jesus Christ or are you living in the shadow of this world? Let us help you grow as a Christian. Go to our website, abidingabove.org and sign up for your free Bible Lesson today!

Thank you for loving us and supporting us. This letter is your letter, because you make discipleship possible by your generous gifts to this ministry. We love you and thank God for you.

Abiding above,



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