

Dear Friend of Abiding Above,

February 2006

At this writing, I am away in Georgia entering into the closing night of a Christian Life Convention. This convention has as its theme the deepening of the spiritual life. The topic and sequence of sermons are based on the Keswick Convention in England that started in 1875.

The life more abundant “in Christ” seems to be missing among believers all across our world. This truth from the Word of God certainly is not new, but it is too often overlooked.



This past Sunday morning a beautiful couple approached me and said, “I have never heard this taught before! This truth is...is....so liberating!” My friend, it is exactly that -- refreshing and liberating.

As always, I responded, “It is nothing new, it has always been in God’s Word. You find it throughout the Bible but primarily in Romans 6, 7, and 8. I encourage you to make a study of it. Beware! You will find yourself, in heavenly places, in Christ Jesus!”

These sermons on deepening the spiritual life will be on our web site www.abidingabove.org in the near future.

George Eager, founder of Mailbox Club International, a world-wide discipleship literature ministry, says of the convention and the messages:

The Spirit-filled messages by Chris Hodges on the Believers Identity in Christ impacted and enriched Grace Bible Church. In my opinion no topic is more needed or more life changing in the church today. The messages and illustrations were profound and yet so simple that even the children gave rapt attention.
-- George Eager

True Holiness: One of the most notable effects of this teaching is the awakening among ordinary Christians to a sense of spiritual poverty and powerlessness in their hearts and lives. Many times men and women, who are

regarded as outstanding in saintliness, become deeply conscious of their studied imitation of Christ, rather than Christ who lives *in and through them*. True holiness is Christ Himself.

In a group setting one time I heard a man say, "I'm trying hard to live a life of humility." Inwardly, I prayed for him to see clearly; Christ is his humility. This man needed only to surrender control to the indwelling Holy Spirit. This surrender is difficult for a person who is in a position of leadership, someone that others report to.

True Security: Think of a little child with a favorite blanket she clings to for a momentary sense of security. My friend, our security rests alone in the fact that we have for all eternity been placed "in Christ" and sealed there by the Holy Spirit. Now that is real security, not a momentary sense of security; that is real *position*. Abiding in Him will result in His humility flowing through your life, and conforming you to His image. Conforming you to His image is, my friend, God's will for you in this life.

Birthday 2006: Thank you for remembering my birthday on February 12. I use birthdays to think about a specific person and pray for his or her spiritual growth on that day. On my birthday this year, I was privileged to fill the pulpit on for Dr. Tommy Snyder at the friendly Forest Hill Baptist Church in Germantown, TN. Dr. Snyder was out encouraging and equipping fellow pastors in Honduras. His time with them was a total success and much needed.

Renew Fellowship with God: That morning I shared a message on, "How to Renew your Fellowship with God." Many times believers find themselves out of *fellowship* with God but think of themselves as out of *relationship* with God. They view God the same way they view human authority in their life who may be against them instead of for them who may be controlling instead of enabling. *God is not like man*. Return to your first love. He sees you in Christ forever. He forgives you. He loves you unconditionally. Simply confess, repent, and enjoy wonderful communion with Him.

Walk by the Holy Spirit: That night we looked at, "How to Walk by the Holy Spirit." The Bible teaches in Colossians 3:1-3 that we have a heavenly position in Christ. We also have an earthly condition, our life here. Our heavenly position is always perfect, but our earthly condition is not. We must walk here on this earth with our minds on the things **above**. As we do, we inwardly see ourselves the way God sees us, and the result is our actions and life will reflect how we see ourselves. The Bible says, "...as a man thinks in his heart, so is he."

So, we abide above in our position knowing that we are in Christ and as we walk along on the pathway of life on earth we rely on Christ in you -- the Holy Spirit -- to live His very life through us on earth. This is the heavenly life on earth. C.S. Lewis used to say, "Christians should be little Christ's."

Continued Support: My friend, thank you for your continued support. Please pray and see if God would lead you to help me financially,

- To get the simple gospel message out to the lost: **Christ Died for You**.
- To encourage believers with the message: **You Died with Christ**.

We certainly need you. I look forward to reporting back to you what God is doing through your prayers and gifts. People are being helped in an eternal way directly by you, by me, and by our Father in Heaven. You are loved.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Colossians 3:1-3