

Dear Friend,

November 2005

Thank you so much for your prayers. God is answering our prayers. Praying gives us the mind and will of God about anything we bring before Him. Bring everything before Him in an attitude of prayer and life will become a romance between you and God.

As many of you know, Dr. Adrian Rogers, is *in His presence*. What a wonderful life, a dear saint of God. We were so blessed to be the ones who had him for more than 32 years as our beloved Pastor. To sum up what we all saw in the life of this dear man of God, I use a quote that I keep in my personal journal by J.H. Jowett, ***“Strong and attractive graces are not “works” they are “fruits” the natural and spontaneous growth of much communion with the Lord.”*** Farewell Pastor, we will see you again when the glory dawns.

A student in our Abiding Above Discipleship School writes, “You probably don’t remember me, but I started this lesson a few months back. Since then I’ve been having some hard times. I prayed and I thought about what would make my life better. God led me to find this lesson again and start doing it. Please continue to send me these lessons. Thanks to this lesson I have memorized **Psalm 46:10** – “Be still and know that I am God.” Thank you very much.”

We can learn from this simple note of thanks,

1) we can lose our first love. God says in His Word to the church in Ephesus in **Revelation 2:4**- *“Nevertheless, I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”* Yes, we can let the things of this world hinder our fellowship with God. Our relationship can never be severed but our communion with God can be on hold and that will always be a choice we make when we choose to avoid His presence.

2) there will be hard times. Jesus said in **John 16:33** - *“In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* So, expect it, all the while remembering to....give thanks in everything.

3) choose to ‘be still’ and consider, what will make my life better? If you find yourself in this situation, just now, like this young boy, return to the first things. **Revelation 2:5**- *“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and **do the first works.**”* Begin again to walk in unbroken communion with God. Spend those special early mornings gleaning from His Word.

4) be consistent- Oswald Chambers said, *“consistency is the hobgoblin of the human mind, 15 minutes a day in any subject will make you the master of that subject, consistency is the key.”*

Your gifts have allowed me to travel to Georgia, to speak at the 40th Anniversary of the Mailbox Club Ministry. This ministry is where we purchase our discipleship lessons that go out free to students all over the country wherever I might speak in a revival, conference, prison, etc. We all gave a special tribute to a dear man of God, George Eager, who has for many years made Jesus Christ his first love. Even through the most trying circumstances he has continually chosen to be still and know God in such a consistent way that his simple lessons that started from the mailbox in front of his house are now distributed all over this world. What an inspiration to give honor to whom honor is due.

What a blessing it was for me to also conduct a couples retreat for my pastor friend, John Compere, at his church in Halls, TN. John writes,

“Chris led a wonderful relationships conference at Westside. It was encouraging, instructive, Spirit-led and just what many were looking for to help strengthen their relationship with their spouse. We had two couples who attended the conference to join the church the next day! Praise the Lord! Thank you, my brother.”

Thank you, John, for having me, and thank you, dear friends, for making it possible for me to travel to these places... ***“to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with every person, to encourage spiritual growth in every believer, by the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.”***

A dear lady writes,

“Rev. Hodges, I just recently listened to your CD message “How To Deal With Discouragement.” The message ministered to me in so many ways. As I listened to the message, I cannot begin to tell you how I was able to start to see more clearly how God wants me to remember that He is always in control. I felt less discouraged just hearing the words that God laid on your heart to preach.”

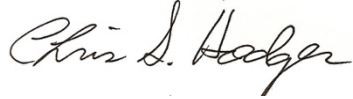
Another dear soul writes,

“Bro. Chris, thank you so much for taking time out for me Sunday morning after the service. Just so much on my heart, so much I am trying to deal with, but I do know I am not going through anything alone. I so know that Jesus gets me through whatever situation I face in life and I do not know what I would do without Him. Your words were kind and you gave me much to think about.”

Please pray for me as I prepare for a 17-day trip to Africa in January. I have been asked to teach 60-100 key leaders on the truths of “Our Identity in Christ.” Remember, ministry to ministers is ministry to multitudes! The teaching will ultimately reach thousands as each leader goes back to his area of service. The airfare is all I need. All other expenses will be taken care of while I am there. Please consider a designated gift to make this happen. The round-trip ticket is about \$1,800. Gifts to Abiding Above Ministries, Inc., are tax deductible under IRS code 501(c)3.

Please consider us as you think about year end giving. We need you, and we know you. Your gifts, each one, is a praise the Lord for us! God loves you and so do we!

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris S. Hodges".

President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:103