

Dear Friend of [Abiding Above](#),

November 2010

We received this letter from one of our radio listeners:

“What is absolute surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit? I feel like the Holy Spirit wants this of me, but I’m not entirely sure that I have anything God can use. I serve in my church as teacher, choir singer, and sing with a trio, and I am director of missions. I also write devotions and have done this for 16 years though I have just about stopped because of frustration. It is the oddest thing; I feel a discontent with my Christian service, like I have done nothing at all for Christ. What is absolute surrender? Have I not done this?”

My friend, I’m afraid this rings true with many Christians. I believe when this sincere letter is read it will touch the hearts of many. It will resonate in such a way that many will say, *“I could have been the one who wrote that letter.”*

You see most people do not understand God’s acceptance of them. They know they are saved but emotionally they feel unaccepted and unacceptable to God. This is because they have yet to have that beautiful moment when they realize for the first time, *“I’m in Christ and Christ is in me.”* **It is truly finished!**

My friend, God placed you in Christ (Galatians 2:20 & Colossians 3:1-3). When Jesus went back to heaven after dying on the cross for you, God the Father “*accepted*” Him back. If you are “*in Christ*” and God accepted Him back into heaven then you are accepted also because you are “*in Him!*” Remember, Jesus did all the work for your acceptance on the cross. You cannot add to that or take it away. The reason we serve our Lord as Christians is not to get His acceptance, but because He has already accepted us and He now guides us in His service by His Holy Spirit in us.

We received these notes from inmates we minister to in prisons by way of the lessons we use in our Abiding Above Discipleship School.

- *“I pray that God helps me to grow everyday in His Word and Spirit. Amen.”*

- *“Help me Father today and bless me with some family that will love me all the time. Bless my heart, soul, and mind in Jesus Holy name. Keep my soul safe from hell and bring me home to “Heaven” soon Lord I pray.”*

My father, Curtis Hodges, grades their lessons. He told me that as of October 19th, one of these inmates had completed 443 lessons and has received 18 certificates of completion! Praise the Lord! You can know he has been thoroughly disciplined and instructed in exactly how to lead other men to Christ in the prison population.

This is what you are giving to and we are humbly grateful to you for your prayers and support. This would not happen without you. Please consider a generous donation today and mark it for “Discipleship School.” Every penny will go to help us continue providing lessons to people all over America.

You can know, you personally, are involving yourself in what Jesus said in Luke 4:18,

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed”*

My friend, this same Jesus lives “in you” and “right now!”

Thank you also for praying for me during the revival I preached in Arkansas. God truly blessed! We saw many come to the altar surrendering their lives to the control of the Holy Spirit of God. The messages just simply flowed from me along with your prayers to the hearts of many. I am grateful to you for sending me to minister in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

When you receive this newsletter I will be preaching a revival in Mississippi. I ask you to kneel and pray for us.

Abiding above,



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