

Dear Friend of **Abiding Above**,

September 2009

I'm praying for you each day. I pray God continues to conform you to the image of His dear Son Jesus!

Paul said in **Romans 8:29** – "*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son*"

Do people see the beauty of Jesus in you?

I'm praying that God will cause others to look upon you with favor and that He will bless all that you put your mind and hands too.

I want you to know this, as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and as President of Abiding Above Ministries; I have no inclination to compromise what is clear to me, God's will for His children, and His desire for the local church. I have not, and will not, subscribe to the latest fads and trends displayed in what has become known as the emergent church. Fads and trends are like the fashion of clothes; they change every year.

God's Holy Word says in **Hebrews 13:8** – "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*"

My friend, the church is the body of Christ. This means that we Christians are "*in Christ*" and if He never changes, we never change.

Paul said in **Romans 12:2** – "*And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind*"

Conformed – means not to be squeezed into Satan's mould.

Dear friend, do you feel like you are being forced into a mould of Christianity that frankly makes you feel uncomfortable? It should, and what you feel is both the resistance, and grieving, of the Holy Spirit inside of you. If you are walking in His Spirit, remembering you are in union with Him, when He resists worldliness you resist worldliness, and when He is grieved, you are grieved.

Again, we read what Paul says in **Galatians 5:17** – *“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another”*

As individuals, we know what it feels like to struggle with the flesh, and to grieve the Holy Spirit. The turmoil in the church today is the same turmoil we experience as individuals when the flesh wants to have its way. The answer? Surrender to the control of the Holy Spirit.

Ministry In St. Louis: I recently returned from St. Louis where I preached the morning message on the *“Vine and the Branches,”* from John 15, and that evening I preached a message on *“The Soon Return of Jesus Christ.”* This message was an eye opener for many, as we looked at the clear signs from scripture that His coming is near. It continues to move me when I see the power of God’s Word and His Spirit move, as people came to the altar to make decisions for Christ.

Tent Revival - Little Rock, AR: Please pray as I prepare for an old fashion Tent Revival in a city square in North Little Rock, Arkansas. There are four churches that are praying and preparing for this, and have invited me to be the guest speaker October 4-9.



Visit Our New Web Site: I am excited to showcase to you the new website for Abiding Above Ministries. Take your own personal tour by going to, www.abidingabove.org. It is my prayer that this site will be a blessing and encouragement to you, and that you will take advantage of passing this site along to someone else. Just click the *“Tell A Friend”* link at the top right hand corner of the page, and share us with your friends and family members.

As many of you know, this past August 2nd, I preached at Germantown Baptist Church. If you would like a free DVD-Video copy of my message, *“How To Have Personal Revival,”* please call the office 901.590.9890 or E-mail us at calsip@abidingabove.org. It would be a blessing to put one in the mail to you.

A Ministry Of Encouragement: God continues to work through your faithful prayers and gifts to reach people around the globe, and we thank you for helping us do this. As a faith-based international ministry, we are solely supported by the gifts of God’s people, **you**. In today’s economy we need you now, *more than ever*, to help us continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Abiding above,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris S. Hodges". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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