



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

October 2025

God bless you, my friend, and continue making you a blessing to many as you have been to us. Thank you for praying for me as God leads you, and thank you for supporting us all of these years. Look what God has done! Please go out to our newly updated website and look back at our newsletters over these many years since 2005 at abidingabove.org.

Abiding - Speaks of our life here on earth in this brief moment we call time. We are to simply cease from striving and let the Holy Spirit Who lives *in us* live His life *through us*. As I say often every day, ***"We are the glove, the Holy Spirit is the hand, let's not get it backwards."*** As a friend said many years ago, ***"It's not 'doing' in order to be; it is simply 'being' in order to do."***

We often try so hard to live the Christian life by **"doing"** that we fail to realize it's us doing it. This is in contrast to simply **"being"** who we already are in Christ and letting the Holy Spirit live His **eternal life** through us.

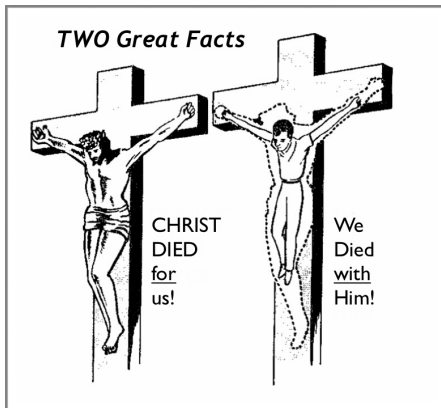
We can go for many, many years not knowing this most simple but glorious truth. This is what causes burn out and thoughts like, ***"I must know something I don't know."***

As Major Ian Thomas once said, ***"You say you can't! God never said you could! He always said He would!"*** Abiding is the answer, my friend.

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:4-5

Notice, Jesus said, ***"... he who abides in Me and I in him, he 'bears' (not produces) much fruit..."***

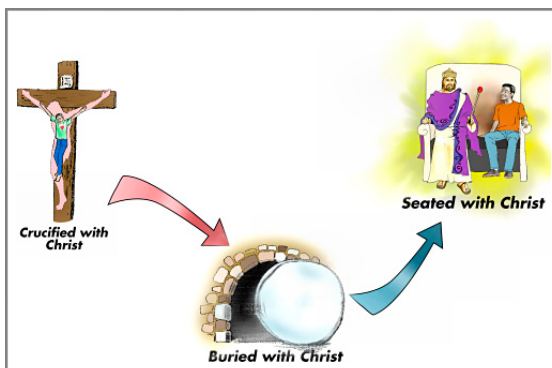
God is the Vine; we're not. At the moment of our salvation, God grafted us into Christ (the Vine). The Holy Spirit is the sap that runs from the Vine, through the 'branch' (you and me) and out comes the fruit of the Holy Spirit, not the fruit of the Christian. Christians cannot "produce" fruit, we can only "bear" fruit. The branches of an apple tree cannot produce apples, they simply abide in the apple tree and apples come out on their branches. The secret to the Christian life is abiding.



Above - Speaks of the eternal position of God's children. Not only did Jesus die on the cross "for us", He also died "as us."

"For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin." Romans 6:5-7

My friend, it is finished! Pause just for a moment. Look up to heaven. God sees you already there. Not going to get there, but, already there. How?



Jesus has already died; you died with Him, once and forever. When He was raised, you were raised. When He ascended to heaven, you ascended to heaven. When He sat down by the right hand of the Father, you sat down. When God, the Father, looks to His right hand, and sees God, the Son, (Jesus), He sees you, right now, in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen!



"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." Galatians 2:20

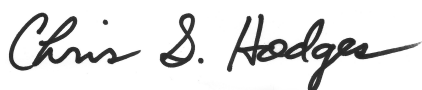
"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:1-3

My friend, let's meditate on the above verses and these images. Let's begin turning our thoughts to God one minute out of every hour each day. Eventually, let's turn our thoughts to God one second out of every minute each day.

Or, as we all have to admit, let's do what we do with our phone everyday. We turn to it at least one minute out of every hour and sometimes one second out of every minute. God made us in such a way that we truly can live in unbroken communion with Him.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
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Colossians 3:1-3
AbidingAbove.org

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