

WEEK 10: REMAINING IN JESUS (ABIDING)

INTRODUCTION

What has been one of the most difficult things about your walk (relationship) with Jesus? Have you ever felt led by Him to do OR not to do something which was a struggle? If so, please share it with us?

REVIEW

Last week we read John 15 (the metaphor of the vine and the branches). This week we will study in detail 2 verses (John 15:9-10) and in particular one word (obedience) within those verses; obedience. We will briefly discuss the metaphor again and the teaching on obedience in the context of the metaphor.

FORETHOUGHT

One of the most important elements of the Christian's life is the simple virtue of *abiding* (remaining) in Jesus; and the key to abiding is *obedience*.

John 15:9-10

⁹"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

OBEDIENCE

Choice to be obedience to His word (the Bible)

According to this verse; what are we to *do* with the Bible that God has given us? What will be the result if we do?

(Refer to **Josh 1:7-9**)

⁷ *Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.* ⁸ *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* ⁹ *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

Choice to be obedience to His Spirit (through His convictions and promptings)

What are some observations you can draw from this verse? How does this verse apply to our everyday lives?

(Refer to **Gal 5:16-18**)

¹⁶ *So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.*
¹⁷ *For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.* ¹⁸ *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.*

TIPS TO OBEDIENCE

Choice to trust

There are many reasons why we should trust God. What are some reasons you can think of based on this verse?

(Refer to **Jeremiah 29:11**)

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

Choice to persevere

According to this verse does it sound like there will be any resistance in our walk (relationship) with Jesus? Why?

(Refer to **Gal 5:17**)

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other”

Choice to depend on Jesus’ Spirit

What power supply are we to rely on and draw from our own OR God’s?

(Refer to **Zech 4:6**)

*“Not by power, nor by might but **by My Spirit**”*

Choice to *not* depend on ourselves

What can we learn from these verses as it relates to obedience?

(Refer to **Philippians 3:3**)

*³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who **put no confidence in the flesh--***

(Refer to **Gal 2:20**)

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”

Additional thought - *“Christian living is not us conquering sin. Rather Christian living is Christ conquering us”* (Dr. Jerry Benjamin).

(Refer to **Gal 3:3**)

“Are you so foolish having begun by the Spirit are you now trying to achieve your goal through human effort.”

Despite this reality, too often we still try to achieve our “Christian goals” through human effort. This is what causes us to fail; we are to put no confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3). Human effort gets human results. Spiritual effort gets supernatural results. If we rely on ourselves we are guaranteed to fail. If we rely on His Spirit we are guaranteed to succeed.

Choice to love Him

Who or what should we keep our focus on? Why? (Should we keep our eyes fixed on the *fruit* OR on *God*?)

(Refer to **Matt 22:37-38**)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

Where does obedience come from? What will happen naturally (overflow, result from) if we love God?

(Refer to **John 14:23-24**)

Obedience is our responsibility, fruitfulness is His responsibility

What will happen naturally (overflow, result from) if we abide in God?

(Refer to John 15:5)

Focus on Jesus

Should we be obsessed with *servicing* or obsessed with *God*; should we be obsessed with the *fruit* or obsessed with our *connection* (remaining) to the *vine*?

Results of obedience

What is the result of obedience to Jesus? (Why is Jesus commanding us to obey and trust Him?)

(Refer to **John 15:10-11**)

¹⁰If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Why do you think that being disobedient robs us of our joy?

APPLICATION

How would you explain, in a few sentences, to an 8 year old what is obedience to Jesus, why is it important and how do you do it?

What areas of your life are you excelling in obedience to Jesus?

What areas of your life do you need to be more obedient to Jesus?

THOUGHTS FOR REFLECTION, RECONCILIATION AND PRAYER

Have I made the choice to abide (remain) in Jesus?

Have I made a predetermined- choice to respond to Jesus with trusting, obedience no matter what?

Have I made a choice to seek and love Jesus above everything else?

What is my view on the seriousness sin? What does my life style demonstrate?