

**“...but grow in the grace and
knowledge of
our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory,
both now and to
the day of eternity.
Amen.”**

II Peter 3:18

Growing in Christ: The Goal...

**We are to grow in Christ-likeness,
being conformed to His character,
bearing fruit and
growing in good works**

Growing in Christ: The Power...

**By God's grace,
we have all of the resources
and power we need
to live a life
of perfect obedience
and holiness
before God!**

**Purposeful
Engagement
With The Word of God
is Essential
to Spiritual Growth**

GROWING BY THE WORD...

- Read it!
- Study it!
- Memorize it!
- Meditate on it!
- “Affirm” its truths!
- Obey it! Live it!
- Teach it To Others!

JOHN 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and
My Father is the vinedresser.
"Every branch in Me that does not
bear fruit, He takes away;
and every *branch* that bears fruit,
He prunes it
so that it may bear more fruit.
"You are already clean
because of the word which
I have spoken to you.

"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.

"If anyone does not abide in Me,
he is thrown away as a branch and
dries up; and they gather them,
and cast them into the fire
and they are burned.

"If you abide in Me,
and My words abide in you,
ask whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you.

"My Father is glorified by this,
that you bear much fruit,
and so prove to be My disciples.
"Just as the Father has loved Me,
I have also loved you;
abide in My love.

"If you keep My commandments,
you will abide in My love;
just as I have kept My Father's
commandments and abide
in His love.

"These things I have spoken to you
so that My joy may be in you,
and *that* your joy
may be made full.

John 15:1-17

The Identities...

- Jesus, the True Vine
- God the Father, the Vine-Dresser
- The Disciples, the branches
- Fruit... The Character of Christ!

John 15:1-17

Responsibilities...

- Jesus, the True Vine
- The Disciples, the branches =US!
- God the Father, the Vine-Dresser

To the abiding branch that is not bearing fruit, v. 2

To the abiding branch that IS bearing fruit, v. 2.



What would
“Abiding in Christ” look like?

Walking by faith,
in conscious fellowship with God,
with no unconfessed sin!

Consider such verses as...

If we say that we have fellowship with Him
and *yet* walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not practice the truth;

1 John 1:7 but if we walk in the
Light as He Himself is in the Light,
we have fellowship with one
another, and the blood of Jesus His
Son cleanses us from all sin.

Colossians 3:16

**Let the word of Christ
richly dwell within you,
with all wisdom teaching and
admonishing one another
with psalms *and* hymns *and*
spiritual songs,
singing with thankfulness
in your hearts to God.**

Psa 27:14

Wait for Yahweh;

Be strong

and let your heart take courage;

Yes, wait for Yahweh.

Psalm 37:3-5

**Trust in Yahweh and do good; Dwell
in the land and
cultivate faithfulness.**

**Delight yourself in Yahweh;
And He will give you
the desires of your heart.**

**Commit your way to Yahweh,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.**

Psalm 37:7

Rest in Yahweh
and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him
who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who
carries out wicked schemes.

Psalm 130:5

I wait for Yahweh,
my soul does wait,
And in His word do I hope.

Isaiah 40:31

Yet those who wait for Yahweh
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings
like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk
and not become weary.

Lamentations 3:24-25

“Yahweh is my portion,”

says my soul,

“Therefore I have hope in Him.”

Yahweh is good to those

who wait for Him,

To the person who seeks Him.

Micah 7:7

**But as for me,
I will watch expectantly
for Yahweh;
I will wait for
the God of my salvation.
My God will hear me.**

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all who are weary
and heavy-laden,
and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you and learn
from Me, for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and YOU WILL
FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.

For My yoke is easy
and My burden is light."

“Abiding in Christ” ≈
Walking by faith,
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Blessings of Abiding in Christ

John 15...

- The clear conscience that comes from obedience, 3-4.
- Fruitfulness!, 2-5.
- Effective prayer, 7, 16
- The Father is glorified, 8

Blessings of Abiding in Christ

John 15...

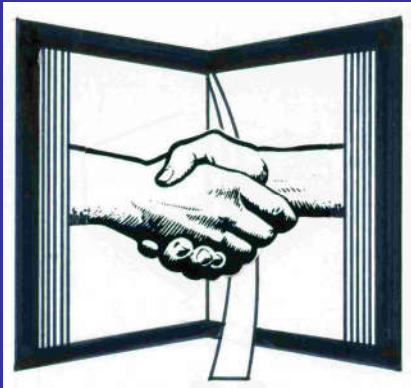
- We prove that we are Jesus' disciples, 8.
- Abiding in Jesus' love, 9-10.
- Fullness of joy, 11.
- Fellowship with other believers, 12-13.

Blessings of Abiding in Christ

John 15...

- Friendship with Jesus, 14.
- Knowing your special relationship of being chosen and appointed by Jesus, 16.
- Abiding fruit!, 16

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