

# THE DISCIPLINES OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE - ABIDING

## **INTRODUCTION**

- Recap of series
- What makes a successful Christian life?
- What can we learn from the saints of old?
- The monks habit
- Harmonizing a “New Creation” theology with spiritual practices
- The key of spiritual disciplines
- The danger of misunderstanding legalism with spiritual practices
- How to apply these messages in your life.

*“You can measure the strength of your inner life by how much opposition it takes to discourage you.”*

## **I. THREE LEVELS OF DISCIPLINES**

*“Abiding in Christ means that we are only engaged with the new.”*

*1 Timothy 4:8*

*For physical training is of some value, but godliness (spiritual training) is of value in everything and in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come.*

### **INTERNAL DISCIPLINES**

- The habits that occur in the “hidden man of our heart” 1 Pt 3:4

### **EXTERNAL**

- The external habits of the Kingdom that we practice through word and deed.

### **CORPORATE**

- The collective habits that God calls his people to practice together in community & mission.

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### II. THE DISCIPLINE OF ABIDING

*“The number one discipline in the new covenant is abiding”*

*“We're learning to live from the inside to the outside. You don't earn it, it's a gift, but you do have to learn how to abide in it.”*

#### **JOHN 15**

*“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, 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, 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, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

#### **JOHN 14**

*19 “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. 20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and [f]manifest Myself to him.”*

*22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”*

*23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.*

#### **1 JN 4:13.**

*By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world*

*ABIDE: menō; a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy):—  
abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry*

*- The story of Hudson Taylor*

*The branch of the vine does not worry, and toil, and rush here to seek for sunshine, and there to find rain. No; it rests in union and communion with the vine; and at the right time, and in the right way, is the right fruit found on it. Let us so abide in the Lord Jesus.*

*-Hudson Taylor*

## THE DISCIPLINES OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE - ABIDING

- *The lesson of the Vine*
- *What does it mean to abide?*

### III. UNPACKING A THEOLOGY OF ABIDING

*“True discipleship is about learning how to sit, stay dwell and abide in the place that God has for us.”*

*2 Pt 1:2*

*Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the [c]orruption that is in the world through lust.*

- *Learning to look at salvation from God’s perspective*
- *Examining the life of Jesus both as an example and our inheritance.*
- *Understanding the principle of legitimate work and rest*
- *The life of Jesus is not meant to inspire us, rather to flow through us.*

### IV. PRACTICAL STEPS TO ABIDING:

*“reciprocal abiding leads to double portion: you abide in me and I will abide in you”*

*“God does not demand perfection. He has already provided it in Jesus. Learn the hard work of resting, abiding and rejoicing.”*

- *Most Christians know and can relate to the experience of abiding at rest in Christ. The secret is to learn how to replicate that experience, practice it and develop it into a lifestyle.*
- *Embed your heart in the truths of the finished work of Christ. This is a daily work, Give us our daily bread.*
- *Reject the fallacy of thinking you can learn this truth and simply understand it.*
- *Daily practice recognizing the things that will pull you out of the vine.*
- *Practice the fruits of the Spirit that flow from abiding.*
- *Learn to return quickly into that place of abiding when you stray from it.*

### DECLARATIONS

*I am a child of God  
I abide in the reality of your permanent presence  
Jesus is the Vine, I am the branch  
The life of Jesus is flowing through me, spirit, soul and body  
The victory, health, joy, peace etc of Jesus is flowing through me.  
The Fruits of the Spirit flow through my life naturally without effort.  
As I abide in Christ I am free from sin.*