



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC The Call to Abide

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THEME Vision Series

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Psalm 91:1-2 (NKJV) calls believers to a life of **abiding in Christ**. It promises that the believer who dwells in the secret place of the Most High will **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty. Like the Psalmist, the believer can say confidently that the Lord is his refuge and fortress, his God in whom he will trust.

THE CALL TO ABIDE

1. WHY the Call to Abide?

- (i) **The blueprint of life is from God.** Simon Peter declared in John 6:63 that Jesus has the words of eternal life. Jesus Himself said that the words that He speaks are spirit and life (John 6:63).
- (ii) **To live life abundantly and victoriously, we must abide in Him.** Jesus is the Vine and we are the branches. He who abides in Jesus, and Jesus in him, bears much fruit. Apart from Him, we can do nothing (John 15:5).
- (iii) **Abiding in Christ is a journey to know and experience Him.** Believers are all on a journey to know God and His ways. We pray to intentionally align our wills to God's will and to seek His involvement in our lives. As we connect with God continually, we need to guard against distractions in life that may cause us to become disconnected with God. When this happens, let us seek to reconnect with God and *stay* connected.

2. How Do We Abide?

We know that the Apostle John is the disciple whom Jesus loved. From the life of the Apostle John, we can learn that a disciple who follows the call to abide in Christ may be described as follows:

- (i) **A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops Intimacy with Him.** Relationships take time and effort to build. We must inculcate spiritual disciplines to develop intimacy. These include reading and meditating on God's word; connecting with God throughout the day and speaking forth His Word; and building our altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship.

- (ii) **A disciple, whom Jesus loves, OBEYS Him.** We must pay the price to walk in righteousness and holiness (2 Timothy 2:22). This means separating from everything that hinders the fulfilment of God's purpose, and separating to everything that adds value to the fulfilment of God's purpose in our lives. What is permissible to others may not be permissible for us. What was permissible may not be permissible now as we grow spiritually (Exodus 20:20, John 13:34-35, Acts 24:16).
- (iii) **A disciple, whom Jesus loves, develops PASSION for God.** Passion for God comes from knowing that God is worth everything to pursue. Such a disciple learns to develop godly priorities in life – God, people then things (Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:1). He is one who takes responsibility for his own spiritual life and growth. He intentionally plans and protects according to his priorities. Lastly, he perseveres in serving God (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- (iv) **A disciple, whom Jesus loves, grows in DISCERNMENT.** Growing in discernment means growing from information to revelation. We do this by asking daily for the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation (1 Corinthians 2:9), seeking revelation from our intake of scriptures (Psalm 19:8), and seeking wisdom from above (James 3:17). Discernment comes from getting into the meat of the Word and by constant practice (Hebrews 5:14).
- (v) **A disciple, whom Jesus loves, continually FOLLOWS the Lord.** Peter failed the Lord by denying Him thrice. Jesus graciously restored Peter and commanded Peter to follow Him once again. By contrast, John was always following the Lord. How do we follow the Lord? We do this by deciding to walk and follow the Lord all the days of our lives (Luke 9:23), by building our lives on the Word to anchor us through difficult times (Matthew 7:24-25) and by walking with people who walk with God (Hebrews 10:24-25).

CONCLUSION

To have a life that abides in Christ, we should hold tightly to the **Word** (John 15:7) and hold tightly to the **Holy Spirit** (1 John 2:27). Will you commit to be such a disciple?

QUESTIONS

1. Reflect on your Word intake, Prayer connect and Altar of thanksgiving, praise and worship. Which area(s) have you been focusing on in developing your intimacy with God? How are you doing so?

2. In your walk in obedience to God:

A. What are some areas in your life that you need to separate from? What struggles do you face in doing so?

B. What are some areas in your life you need to separate to and how will you grow towards this?

3. Consider your current passion(s) in terms of the things that matter for eternity and those only in the present life. Share if they are in alignment with the godly priorities we should have in life. How can you re-prioritise your current passions?