

"LORD, ABIDE WITH US"

*"Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?' Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, 'Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?' And He said to them, 'What things?' So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.' Then He said to them, '**O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?**' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, '**Abide with us**, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.' And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, '**Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?**'"* Luke 24:13-32

Do You See Jesus?

It is extraordinary that these disciples travelling on the road to Emmaus failed to recognise Christ. But **how often do we not fail to see the hand of God in our daily lives?**

The Unseen Guest

When the Lord asked what they were talking about, **do you realise that the Lord is interested in your conversations? What do you talk about on a daily basis? Do you recognise that the Lord is the unseen guest at every table? Do you realise that the Lord Jesus Christ is the hearer of every conversation we have?**

You Cannot Trust Your Emotions

The Lord asked: **why were they sad?** These disciples were sad because they believed that "Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people" was dead. "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel." **They were sad because they thought Jesus had failed in His Mission and that He was dead. In fact, the Lord had not failed and He was most certainly alive! Is the Lord Jesus Christ the Lord of your emotions? You cannot trust your emotions. You can trust Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.**

Christ is in All the Scriptures

The Lord Jesus Christ declared to them: "*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?*" **And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**"

Foolishness Rebuked

There is much in the Scripture that rebukes foolishness. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight (1 Corinthians 3:19). *"For My people are foolish, they have not known Me. They are silly children, and have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."* Jeremiah 4:22

*"A fool has no **delight in understanding**, but in expressing his own heart."* Proverbs 18:2

"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God." 1 Corinthians 3:19

*"**The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge**, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness."* Proverbs 15:14

Treasures of Wisdom

The Lord opened their minds to see Christ in all the Scriptures. *"The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord..."* Isaiah 11:2-3

"That their hearts may be encouraged, being knitted together in love and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of the understanding to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in Whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:2-3

"O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33

Are Your Eyes Opened?

He opened the Scriptures. He opened their minds and He opened their eyes.

We need our eyes to be opened. We need to see Christ in all the Scriptures. *"**Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us?**"*
Luke 24:32

When last did God speak to you?

What did He say?

Did you obey?

When last has your heart burned within you?

Was it today when you opened the Scriptures and began the day by studying His Word?

If not, why not?

If you are too busy to read God's Word and pray, then you are too busy. God has given each of us enough time to do His will. But we do not have enough time, to run down every dead-end street, diversion and distraction of the world.

Our Greatest Priority

The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing. Our greatest priority is to fix our eyes on Jesus on whom our Faith depends from beginning to end (Hebrews 12:1-2). We need to understand His Word so that we can know His will for our life.

Do you see the hand of God in your life?

Do you recognise His voice?

Are you following in His footsteps?

Is your prayer: **"Lord abide with us!"**?

Abide In Christ

"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 15:1-8

What is the fruit of your life?

The Fruit of the Flesh

The Word of God tells us: *"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practise such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God."* Galatians 5:19-21

The Fruit of the Spirit

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 5:22-26

Fruitless Branches are Cut Off

Jesus is the vine. You are the branches. You cannot bear fruit unless you abide in Christ. Jesus says that if you abide in Him and He abides in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from Christ you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Christ, he is like a dried out withered branch that will be thrown away, picked up and thrown into the fire and burned.

Abiding in Christ

Our Lord promises us that if we abide in Him and His Words abide in us, we can ask whatever we want and it will be given to us. *"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, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full."* John 15:10-11

Are you abiding in Christ?

Is He abiding in you?

Are you keeping God's Commandments?

Is your joy full?

Walking in the Light

"This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us." 1 John 1:5-10

Following in His Steps

Jesus left us an example that we should follow in His footsteps (1 Peter 2:21).

If I followed you would I find Christ?

If every member of your church was like you, what kind of church would you have?

"He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked." 1 John 2:6

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming." 1 John 2:28

In the Light of Eternity

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment (Hebrews 9:27).

If you were to die today, and stand before God, to give an account for your life, what could you say?

Before The Risen Lord

When the Apostle John, who was the disciple whom Jesus loved, Jesus best friend on earth, the one who could rest his head against the Lords' shoulder at the Last Supper, when John had a vision of the risen, ascended Christ, we read in the Book of Revelation that John *"fell at His feet as dead..."* Revelation 1:17

The Verdict of Eternity

If you had to face the Lord this night, and He was to judge you in accordance with His Ten Commandments, would you be innocent or guilty?

"Whoever abides in Him does not continue in sin. Whoever practises sins has neither seen Him nor known Him."

To Destroy the Works of the Devil

*"Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. **For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother." 1 John 3:6-10*

From Death to Life

"We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him." 1 John 3:14-15

The Difference Between Sin and the Practice of Sin

Christians know what it is to slip into sin. But we hate that sin, we repent of it and turn away from it. It is one thing to fall and get up immediately. It is another thing to fall and wallow in the mud, and filth of the world. There is a great difference between a Christian occasionally failing, and a pagan revelling in sin and rebellion against God and His holy Laws.

Evaluate Yourself

Have you been born again?

Have you died to the world, the flesh and the devil?

Does God's Holy Spirit reside in you?

Can those around you, on a daily basis, see the fruit of the spirit in your life?

Love? Joy? Peace? Longsuffering? Kindness? Goodness? Faithfulness? Gentleness? Self-control?

It is not about perfection. It is about direction.

What is the Direction of Your Life?

*"Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. **He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.**" 2 John 9*

Beware of Being Deceived

We are warned that *"many deceivers have gone out into the world..."* 2 John 7, *"If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house..."* (2 John 10), in such a way as to share in their evil deeds.

Spiritual Fruitfulness

Abiding in Christ results in spiritual fruitfulness (John 15:5), answered prayer (John 15:7), peace (John 16:33), new life (2 Corinthians 5:17), and righteousness (Philippians 3:9).

Overcoming the World

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"You shall not follow a crowd to do evil..." Exodus 23:2

Are you following Christ, or are you following the crowd?

"But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner - not even to eat with such a person." 1 Corinthians 5:11

In the World But Not of It

"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." 2 Corinthians 6:17. We are to be in the world, but not of it. We must not be conformed to this world. We need to be transformed by the Word of God.

"...Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? Therefore the wrath of the Lord is upon you." 2 Chronicles 19:2

"Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits." 1 Corinthians 15:33

What company do you keep?

Are you evangelising and discipling your friends, or are they corrupting your character?

What are you Allowing to Influence Your Mind?

These passages of Scripture not only speak to the physical company we keep, but what company our mind and spirit keep. What books, magazines and papers do you read?

What websites are you visiting?

What films are you watching?

What music are you listening to?

What kind of company is your mind keeping?

What kind of education and entertainment is influencing your heart and soul?

Every Choice Echoes in Eternity

Everything has consequences. Ideas have consequences. What we **see** influences what we think. What we **think** influences how we **behave**. What we **do** influences who we **are** and what we **become**. Our choices influence our eternal destiny.

Withdraw from Bad Influences

"But we command you, brethren, in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you."

2 Thessalonians 3:6-7

The World Hates True Christianity

"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the Word that I said to you, A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My Word, they will keep yours also." John 15:18-20. If the world loves you, then you are compromising. Can the world that rejected Christ be pleased with you, if you are faithful to Christ? Can the world that crucified Christ love you, when you are consistent in abiding in His Word and following His example?

Deceiving the Nations

We are warned that satan **"will go out to deceive the nations..."** Revelation 20:8.

The Bible continually warns us: *"Lest satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."* 2 Corinthians 2:11

"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." 2 Corinthians 11:3

We are taught that *"satan who deceives the whole world..."* (Revelation 12:9) and, in the Book of Revelation, we are told that at the end God will send an Angel to bind satan *"so that he should deceive the nations no more."* Revelation 20:3

Plainly satan is deceiving nations today. The Scripture warns us of *"the lawless one... according to the working of satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders."* 2 Thessalonians 2:9

"...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience."
Ephesians 2:2

"Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them." 2 Corinthians 4:4

From Darkness to Light

We are called to *"open their eyes in order to turn them from darkness to light, from the power of satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by Faith in Me."* Acts 26:18

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Abide in Christ!

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