

⁴ 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.

A branch doesn't bear fruit by trying, working, or straining. It bears fruit by simply "abiding." What does this mean? How do you abide in Jesus? When you put a tea bag in a cup of hot water, the tea begins to flavor the water until it takes on the taste of the tea bag. And the longer the tea bag remains in the water, the stronger the color and flavor of the tea. That's what happens when you abide or remain in Christ and He abides in you. The longer you abide in Him and the deeper you go with Him, the more His presence will begin to saturate your life.

The branch doesn't produce the fruit; it bears the fruit. It is the vine that produces the fruit. And Jesus said, "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" (John 15:5). Without the vine, the strongest branch is as defenseless as the weakest branch.

So, what does it mean to abide in Christ?

- **Study His Word.** “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you” (v.7). As you study God’s Word you are changed and empowered by His Spirit.
- **Obey His will.** “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love” (v.10). The closer you get to God, the more you’ll want to do what He says. And when you do what He says, you’ll begin to walk in His power and blessings. When you obey, you will see His power released in your life.

What are you doing now with your relationship with Jesus? Are you abiding or avoiding?

Respond