



With hope that this page will bring glory to God and attention to His Word, you are invited to check this page every day for a piece of scripture, thoughts on the verse(s) and a prayer. May the ideas presented here bring you fulfillment as you continue your journey with Christ.

Sunday April 28, 2024

Today's Scripture:

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:7

Thoughts on Today's Verse(s):

Today's verse is easy to misunderstand. Jesus is not giving us license to ask for whatever we want in this world. "*Huh? Isn't that what it says right there on the page?*" Yes - but no. The Lord of lords is focused on what it means to *abide in Him*; to *remain in Him* as St. John shares with us today. Certainly, he knew what it meant to abide in Jesus, not just because he spent 3 years of his life with Him but because he was centered on everything that Jesus taught him. The apostle John was centered on Christ's Words and teachings. Had it not been the case, he would never have been able to write one of the most critical and wonderful books of the gospel. It is through that very gospel, where John and others share The Lord's words with us, that we are blessed and edified; sanctified and enlightened. It is by remaining in His words that we come to truly *know* Jesus and seek to know even more. But still, this should not allow us to conclude that we are now in a position of good standing with God and thus can expect Him to answer our requests for material possessions, prosperity and wealth. Rather, what we can ask for in our pleas and petitions is for those things that *He* wants. We can humbly and heartily beseech Jesus to offer us all the things He talks about in the gospel. We can ask The Lord for peace, His love, compassion, healing, truth, clarity, purpose in His kingdom and a place where we can serve Him.

We cannot ask Him for that new boat you may covet, we can't request confounding for your neighbor who frustrates you and we dare not seek conditions that are clearly outside His will; His good pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2b).

The good news is that if we truly do *abide/remain* in The Words of Christ, we won't want those earthly devices and desires. If we are authentically immersed in Christ's Word, we will want what *He* wants. We will want to help others to repent. We will want to help others fully come to Him in faith. We will want to help others to be healed, saved and to flourish in His grace. The Lord's words are that powerful and we can be so pleased to read them, study them and then seek His good favor according to those words.

Based on Christ's words today that we should abide in Him, what do you want?

Prayer:

O Abiding Lord Jesus, how wonderful it is to remain grounded in Your words. They guide us and direct us. They protect us and offer us peace and joy. It is by Your words in the gospel and various places in the scriptures that we find Your will for our lives and Your kingdom. Help us, O Lord, to design and structure our prayers from Your word that You may see Your will manifested in our hearts and minds. Teach us to pray for those things that honor You and help You to grow Your kingdom. May the words of John and others work to lead us as our hopes and desires become what You want too. We seek to remain in You today by praying in Your words, Amen.

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

John 15:7

