

## *Abiding in Christ*

### Session Eight Class Outline

- A. Do you have a favorite book of the Bible?
1. The Master Key to Christianity is found in John 15.
  2. “\_\_\_\_\_ in My love” (John 15:9).
- B. Why we seek to abide in Christ.
1. This is where we receive divine life.  
“I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).
  2. John 1:4, “In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.”
  3. There’s so much life in God, He can’t contain it all. Rev. 22:1.
  4. In Rev. 4, John is caught up to the throne, and he sees four “living creatures” at the throne of God.
- C. “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).
1. The key to answered prayer:
    - a. “If you abide in Me”—intimacy
    - b. “and My words abide in you”—understanding
  2. When you have a life-dominating prayer, all you care about is the question, “How do I abide in Christ?”
    - a. Gabriel said to Zacharias, “...your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John” (Luke 1:13).
    - b. In Gethsemane: “So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words” (Matt. 26:44).
    - c. Abraham: “After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.’ 2 But Abram said, ‘Lord GOD, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ 3 Then Abram said, ‘Look, You have given me no offspring; indeed one born in my house is my heir!’ 4 And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, saying, ‘This one shall not be your heir, but one who will come from your own body shall be your heir.’ 5 Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ 6 And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness” (Gen. 15:1-6).

## Session Eight Class Outline, cont'd

- D. The great question of the ages: "How do I abide in Christ?"
1. Lovesickness is a sublime blend of exhilarated delight and distressed desire. (See Song of Sol. 5:8.)
  2. We continue to pursue because the goal is so glorious, desirable, and noble.
    - a. Great accomplishments are never attained easily.
    - b. A great goal deserves great effort.
  3. In your pursuit of an abiding relationship with Christ, you have a "Helper" (John 14:16). He will help you.
  4. You don't need \_\_\_\_\_ with the Helper.
  5. Paul called Him "the Holy Spirit of promise" (Eph. 1:13). He's always promising things.
- E. John 15:1-2, "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."
1. The whole point: Get the life of God flowing into you, and then you will bear fruit.
  2. A fruitful branch doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ at being fruitful.
- F. A few comments about pruning.
1. Fifty canes are trimmed back to 5.
  2. We have the constant tendency to grow too many branches.
  3. Pruned plants don't look good.
  4. God always cuts the vines back to their former size.
  5. According to v. 2, it's \_\_\_\_\_ branches that get pruned.
- G. This week's assignment:
1. Read chapters 34-38 in *Secrets Of The Secret Place* (unless your leader gives you a different assignment).
  2. In the *Companion Study Guide*, complete the section entitled "For Personal Reflection" in chapters 34-38.
  3. Come next week prepared to discuss your assigned chapters.
  4. Write down and bring with you any questions you'd like to ask the group.