

## ABIDE IN ME

**John 15:7 “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (ASV)**

*ABIDE=to maintain unbroken fellowship with Jesus, to put forth constant influence on one; God is said to be in Christ, to dwell as it were within him, to be continually operative in him by his divine influence and energy, (ref. Thayer’s concordance)  
Strong’s concordance says, to dwell endure, be present, remain and terry.*

Sometimes I need to find out what a word really means when I’m reading scripture. Due to translations that make it easier to read English, there is some softening of certain words and what they were meant to say to the reader. Because I think I understand what the meaning of “abide” is, I miss the impact that Jesus meant His disciples to get. It is not hard to get someone to do something if they believe there is a great reward on the other side. “If you abide in Me.....ask whatever you wish,” seems easy enough but the word “abide” keeps getting in the way of my will being fulfilled. The Lord makes no light request of those who would dedicate their lives to follow Him. He said this to men who left homes and families and jobs to be with Him, so there were no small commitments here.

I had to wrestle with the question, “Do I want to remain in unbroken fellowship with the Lord and have His word be a constant influence on me; or do I just want to do these things so I can get whatever I ask for?” The answer has taken some time but I think it relates to a lot of people.

## INFLUENCE

Every moment that I am influenced by the world and not the Lord I break fellowship with Him. Without making a big deal out of that, it is easy to understand how the world can influence us daily. If not in our work it is in the entertainment we treasure so dearly. (*entertainment means distraction by the way.*)

There is not much evidence the word of God is having a constant influence on me when I begin to judge others, bad-mouth the government, speak words of condemnation over sinners in the world and in general hold my own opinion in higher regard than the word of God itself.

I have been battling with self-discipline lately and I know I’m not alone. I want to take better care of my physical body so I have decided to exercise more and eat better. As soon as I made that decision I began to eat twice as much and every possible trauma that can happen in my life starts as soon as I put a jogging suit on. Does any of this sound familiar to anyone?

Needless to say, I spend my time arguing with myself and the circumstances that stop me from doing what I know is right until I give up in frustration and put off today what I think I will have time for tomorrow. This is the scenario that has kept many believers and lovers of Jesus from getting that “unbroken fellowship” they so want. There is a battle going on right now in the heavens, and the enemy is shouting “stop the believers from finding their God in daily fellowship.” The key to our lives is in this unbroken fellowship with Him and having His word be a constant influence over our

lives. If one generation can get into unbroken fellowship, the next will learn from our experience.