



9/10/25

I've been contemplating the difference between being IN CHRIST and ABIDING IN CHRIST. Here's what I'm thinking... To be IN CHRIST is our position with Him through His work in us. We put our faith in Him and He adopts us and makes us His own. We are IN HIM. We don't save ourselves to be in Him. He does the work. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing. It is the work of God, so that no one can boast." That is what it means to be IN HIM.

To ABIDE in Him is our daily decision. We spend the day from morning until bedtime with Him at the center, in constant conversation, entrusting our feelings, thoughts, decisions, and desires to Him. As we abide in Him like a branch abides in the vine, He STILL does the work IN and THROUGH us. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me." Our responsibility is NOT to fix or do anything other than to abide in Him.

Are you struggling with anger, fear, despair, or foolishness? The answer is not to set your attention on fixing these things, but to set your attention on the One who has the power to fix these things in you. "With man, it is impossible. With God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26). If you know Jesus personally as your Savior, you ARE in Him. Now He's calling you to ABIDE in Him. I pray you and I will choose to abide in Him every moment of every day. We will never regret it.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalms 19

Psalms 19 always felt a little disconnected to me. I saw somewhat of a connection between vs. 1-

6 and 7-14, but vs. 7 seemed to start a whole new conversation! But a quote by a God-following scientist from last Sunday's message helps me understand better. He called pastors "priests of the highest God through the book of His word" while scientists are really "priests of the highest God through the book of His nature." Now I see that vs. 1-6 refer to the book of His nature (His general revelation), while vs. 7-11 refer to the book of His word (His special revelation), and vs. 12-14 are all about my response to God.

Vs. 1-6 ~ The book of His nature, His general revelation for all the world to see... "The heavens declare the glory of God." Following are a list of ways God speaks through nature...

- *The heavens DECLARE His glory.*
- *The sky above PROCLAIMS His handiwork.*
- *Day to day POURS out SPEECH. The Hebrew says the day "gushes out speech."*
- *Night to night REVEALS knowledge.*

Nothing goes unheard. Their voices declaring the glory, honor, and splendor of God reach the ends of the earth. I think of Isaiah 55:10-11 where God says, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it." That includes the book of God's nature revealing the glory of God in every drop of rain, every snowflake, every breeze, every seed, every part.

In His words from nature, He has placed a tent (a tabernacle) for the sun so that it comes out like a bridegroom and a champion who runs the race with joy. Oh my goodness! If this doesn't point to Jesus, I don't know what does!!! Ephesians 5 shows that believers together are His bride. He is the Bridegroom who presents us to Himself in splendor. Hebrews 12:2 says that "for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross" for the glory of God and the hope of man! The sun is a constant speech of the glory of the SON. There is nothing hidden from the light of the world. He even shines in the darkness. O Lord, let Your book of nature continually point me to You as the sun continues to rise each morning and declare Your glory.

Vs. 7-11 ~ The book of His word, His special revelation for those who seek Him... The Old Testament has many words that speak of God's word... His perfect law, His absolute and sure testimony, His righteous precepts, His pure commandments, the holy fear (awe) of Him, His true rules. These are all aspects of His word. There is nothing tainted in His word, no lie, no deceit. His word is God breathed, powerful and active... living... discerning, empowering my heart to be free of deceit. This is the power I receive from Him when I seek Him through His Spirit breathed word...

- *He revives my soul. He restores the joy of salvation in me with His abundant joy. The joy of the Lord is my strength.*
- *He makes me wise. "Whoever is wise in his own mind is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26), but the Lord, through His word, helps me walk in wisdom.*
- *He fills my heart with rejoicing rather than complaining. As I set my mind on Him and His word, I'm able to see what has always been there... a reason for celebration.*
- *He enlightens my eyes. He IS the light of the world. Without His word, I walk blindly. It is no wonder that I would stumble when I've avoiding His truth. O Lord, let me not be blind to You!*
- *As I look to You, I can't help but be in awe of You. The fear (awe, trust, worship) of You endures forever because YOU endure forever. Your power endures forever. Your authority endures forever. Your love endures forever.*
- *You make me righteous through the living word, Jesus Christ. "In the beginning was the word... and the word came and dwelled among us" (John 1:1, 14). The word, Jesus, gave me the free gift of righteousness that cost Him everything (Romans 5:17).*

So with You, Lord, as I am Your servant and daughter, You both warn with Your word so that I leave the paths of darkness and walk on Your well-lit paths of steadfast love and faithfulness. And by me seeking to obey You, beginning with my faith in You, You reward me! "In Your presence there is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11).

How could I not desire Your word more than gold and honey? Gold and honey are temporary pleasures. Your word is truly richer and sweeter than any treasure of this world.

Vs. 12-14 ~ My response to God's book of nature (His general revelation) and His book of His word (special revelation) ~

Lord, I want to obey You! As I look at who You are, I see that I am full of hidden faults... I'm blind to how deep my arrogance and selfishness go. My only clue to them is when I feel depleted, foolish, fearful, anxious, hopeless, blind, lost, more focused on my SELF, or like a failure. Surely, in those cases I am not allowing the Holy Spirit to lead me by the hand with Your word as my lamp for my feet and the light for my path. Please cleanse me from these faults in my heart!

I see also, Father, that I have defiant, arrogant sin in my heart where I KNOW what You want me to do, and I avoid You. O Lord, please forgive me and keep me away from blatantly defying You. The only way sin will not rule over me is if I am with You... You are the power I need to overcome, to be blameless and innocent of terrible sins against You.

This is what I need to do while You work in me and through me... This is how I "work out my salvation with fear and trembling, while You work in me both to will and to work for Your good pleasure" (Philippians 2:12-13) ~ I pray that the words that come out of my mouth and that

what I let my mind and heart dwell on are pleasing to You. Truly, what comes out of my mouth when I react rather than take time to process reveals what is truly in my heart. Please help me, Holy Spirit, to dwell on what pleases You.

You have revealed Yourself to ALL the world so that none of us are without excuse. You have specifically revealed Yourself personally to all who seek You. You are my Rock, my strength... and You are my Redeemer, my deliverer. You deliver me from ME. O Lord, I will dwell on You and celebrate Your glory through Your book of nature and Your book of the word. Praise Your name.