

BRANCH LIFE

JOHN 15:1-8 – ERIC SIMPSON – MARCH 10, 2019

John 15:7-8

⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

meno (men'-o) = to abide, dwell, continue, endure, remain

"When a new graft is placed in a vine, and it abides there, there is a twofold process that takes place. The first is the wood. The graft shoots its little roots and fibers down into the stem, and the stem grows up into the graft, and what has been called the structural union is affected. The graft abides and becomes one with the vine...Then there is the second process, in which the sap of the vine enters the new structure, and uses it as a passage through which sap can flow up to show itself in young shoots and leaves and fruit. Here is the vital union. In the graft which abides in the stock, the stock enters with sap to abide in it." – Andrew Murray

Ingredients to abiding...

- **Scripture**

"Do not expect to master the Bible in a day, or a month, or a year. Rather expect often to be puzzled by its contents...Great men and women of God often feel like novices when they read the Word...Let the Word break over your heart and mind again and again as the years go by, and imperceptibly there will come great changes in your attitude and outlook and conduct. You will probably be the last to recognize these. Often you will feel very, very small, because increasingly the God of the Bible will become to you wonderfully great. So go on reading until you can read no longer, and then you will not need the Bible anymore, because when your eyes close for the last time in death, and never again read the Word of God in Scripture you will open them to the Word of God in the flesh, that same Jesus of the Bible whom you have known for so long, standing before you to take you forever to His eternal home." – Geoffrey Thomas

- **Prayer**

Keep it simple. Keep it honest. Keep it going.

- **Obedience**

"...doing without being results in productivity that looks important now, but in the final analysis won't amount to much. Doing what comes out of being yields eternal results that may look and feel trivial now and may frustrate a lot of people who want us to do this or that, but in the last day will be revealed as truly significant. What really matters besides hearing his 'well done'?" – Larry Crabb

Acts 10:2-3

*² [Cornelius] and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and **prayed to God regularly.** ³ **One day** at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw an angel of God...*