

Saturday, 7/31/21 at 4:00 & Sunday, 8/1/21 at 9:00

anxious *for* NOTHING

Part 4: Abiding and Being Fruitful



Text: John 15 and Other Passages NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: **This is part 4** of the series, Anxious for Nothing.¹ So far in this series we have learned some important reasons to NOT be anxious:

- ➔ **God is SOVEREIGN** – *so He is in control of all things!*
- ➔ **“The Lord is NEAR”** (Phil. 4:5) – *to receive our anxieties and our expressions of thanksgiving!*
- ➔ **The LORD will bring us safely through every storm of life** – *so let us trust in Him in every circumstance!*

Today, in **part 4**, we will focus on the relationship between **abiding in Jesus** and **being fruitful!** But first, ***God saved us!***

1. **God Saved Us:** The Bible makes it clear that from conception we were **spiritually blind** (1Co. 2:14), **dead** (Eph. 2:1), and **enemies of God** (Rom. 8:7). Therefore, God the

¹ Max Lucado, Anxious for Nothing (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2017), 4.

Father, by the Holy Spirit **and** through holy baptism, took LOVING AND POWERFUL ACTION to clothe us in Christ (Tit. 3:4-7; Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:27; Acts 2:38-39). So, let us give thanks **to God and to our parents**—since they **✦took us to be baptized** and **✦helped us grow as believers in Jesus!** Now that we are IN CHRIST, **let us abide in Christ!**

2. **Abide in Me:** In **John 15**, Jesus said those words repeatedly. *Abide* comes from the Greek word, *meno* (μένω), which means to “remain” or “continue.” Those who abide in Jesus to the end of their lives will go to heaven 😊, *but all who stop abiding will go to hell* 😞. Since abiding is **SO IMPORTANT**, what should we do?
- Keep believing: ^{NAS} **John 8:31** “If you **abide** in My word, *then you are truly disciples of Mine...*” // To *abide* in Jesus’ word means to **keep believing** whatever He says. For us to believe it, *we must know it*. For us to know it, *we must ✦hear it, ✦read it, ✦study it, and ✦memorize it*.
 - Evil, good: ^{NAU} **Psalm 37:27** “Depart from evil and do good, so you will **abide** forever.” // Since we are ✦*saved sinners* and ✦*learning the Bible*, let us gladly ✦**turn** from evil and ✦**embrace** what is good!
 - No, yes: ^{NAU} **2 John 1:9** “Anyone who goes too far and does **not abide** in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who **abides** in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.” // *Abiding is critical*.
 - Confidence: ^{NAU} **1 John 2:28** “...**abide** in [Jesus], so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.” // Since ✦*Jesus is coming* and ✦*only those who abide in Him will be welcomed in*, **let us make abiding our top priority!**

3. **Being Fruitful:** For all who believe in Jesus, ➡ fruitfulness is important, BUT ➡ **ABIDING SHOULD BE THE FOCUS!**
- a. In John 15, Jesus said a lot about **gardening**:
- i. **God** is the gardener – *He prunes.*
 - ii. **Jesus** is the vine – *He nourishes the branches.*
 - iii. **Believers** are the branches – *they abide in the vine.*
 - iv. **Fruit** – *is produced thru the branches; two kinds:*
 1. The fruit of the Spirit: When the HS is living in us, *our lives will be showing: “...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control”* (Gal. 5:22-23 NAU).
 2. The fruit of us: ➡ Certain of heaven and ➡ wanting others to be IN CHRIST, *we share God’s saving truth: “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls”* (Prov. 11:30).
- b. Some key verses in John 15:
- i. **Removing**: ^{2a} “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away...” // A fruitless branch is a dead branch, *it is no longer abiding in Jesus.* Therefore, Jesus said, ⁶ “they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.”
 - ii. **Pruning**: ^{2b} “...every *branch* that bears fruit, [God] prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. // Pruning is like Olympic training, both are difficult and extreme, *BUT they effectively produce fruit or win medals!*
 - iii. **Source of fruitfulness**: ⁴ “...As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it **abides** in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you **abide** in Me.” // Let us focus on abiding, *and the fruit will come naturally.*

- iv. **Help in fruitfulness:** ⁷ “If you **abide** in Me, and My words **abide** in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” // All who abide will bear fruit. Doing so is not easy but important, *so all who abide in Jesus should gladly pray for God’s help!*
- v. **Results of fruitfulness:** ⁸ “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.” // Since God has saved us, *He has changed us on the inside; now* we ♣love Him and ♣want to glorify Him. As we bear fruit, we ♣**praise, honor, and magnify** our Great God and ♣verify our confession – *that we are abiding in Jesus!*

4. **Anxiety-Free Fruitfulness:** Let us go back to the **vine**, the **branches**, and the **fruit**. As the focus of a branch is to receive nourishment from the vine, *so our focus is to receive nourishment from Jesus!* As healthy branches of Christ, **free from anxiety, the fruit will come naturally!**

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – God speaks to us through the Bible, *so let us listen carefully to learn what He desires!*
- **Relevance** – As we can swing a hammer to drive a nail, *so God can use us to accomplish what He desires!*
- **Inspiration** – Since God is almighty in power, *there is no limit to what He can accomplish through us!*

Let Us Pray: Dear HS, keep us ♣abiding in Jesus, ♣open to God’s will, and ♣fruitful unto God’s glory!

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