

Abiding in Christ

Chosen by God

“For you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

I am special because God has chosen me and because He has adopted me. I am His child. Joy and a sense of purpose come as a by-product of obedience. And obedience comes from willfully choosing to invite the Holy Spirit to give me victory and a disdain for what separates me from God.

Know that the Lord is God, It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture (Psalm 100).

Bearing Fruit

I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

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)

If I am completely submitted to Christ, He will guide me in my asking. Then He will give me what I ask for. If I ask for more of the fruit of self-control, He will supply my need.

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit (John 15:8).

When there is evidence of fruit in my life, all the credit goes to my Father. It came as a result of Him working in me and not from myself. Honor Him by glorifying Him with praise.

We cannot change our hearts; we cannot control our thoughts, our impulses, or our affections. We cannot make ourselves pure, fit for God's service. But we can choose to serve God, we can give Him our will; then He will work in us to will and to do according to His good pleasure. Thus our whole nature will be brought under the control of Christ (White, *Ministry of Healing*, 176).

Christ is Everything

“When it pleased God . . .” (Galatians 1:15). But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ (Philippians 3:7).

Nothing was more valuable to Paul than Christ's love or more precious than His grace. In the original language the word "loss" means garbage or dung. Christ was so incredibly precious that all of this world's treasures were garbage in comparison. Ellen White says, "*Whatever shall draw my heart from God must be given up*" (White, *Steps to Christ*, 44).

The basic question in the Christian life is, *Who has your heart?* . . . Christ offers us His all: His grace, His pardon, His mercy, His power, His courage, His comfort, His hope, and His promise of eternity. In light of all He gives us, everything we give away is only garbage (Finley, *Solid Ground*, 32).

Our growth in grace, our joy, and our usefulness—all depend upon our union with Christ. It is by communion with Him, daily, hourly—by abiding in Him—that we are to grow in grace (White, *Steps to Christ*, 69).

Consecrate yourself to God in the morning; make this your first work. Let your prayer be, "Take me, O Lord, as wholly Thine. I lay all my plans at Thy feet. Use me today in Thy service. Abide in me, and let all my work be wrought in Thee" . . . Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall dictate. Thus day by day you may be giving you life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ (White, *Steps to Christ*, 70).

God With Us

God's ambassadors are to have nothing to do with consequences. They must perform their duty and leave the results with Him.

Adversity is a friend. It turns your face toward your Father and keeps you there.

Feb 19, *The Fathers' presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission. All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and grief's, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us. (White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing, 71).*

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world (Matthew 28:20).

He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. The blow that is aimed at him falls upon the Savior, who surrounds him with His presence. Whatever comes to him comes from Christ, *He has no need to resist evil, for Christ is his defense. Nothing can touch him except by our Lord's permission, and "all things" that are permitted "work together for them that love God" (The Faith I Live, 64).*

Whatever comes to him comes from the Savior who surrounds him with His presence. *Nothing can touch him except by the Lord's permission.* All our sufferings and sorrows, all our temptations and trials, all our sadness and griefs, all our persecutions and privations, in short, all things work together for our good. All experiences and circumstances are God's workmen whereby good is brought to us (White, *Ministry of Healing*, 489).

Day by day God instructs His children. By the circumstances of the daily life He is preparing them to act their part upon the wider stage to which His providence has appointed them . . . *Those who fail to realize their CONSTANT dependence upon God will be overcome by temptation (White, Desire of Ages, 382).*

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of self (2 Corinthians 4:7). We are only jars of clay, but God has entrusted us with this treasure [Christ in me] to show that the power does not come from within. (2 Corinthians 4:7, *Clear Word Paraphrase*).

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3, 4)

The Holy Spirit

People who are always looking for a way to direct or control the power of the Holy Spirit are confused. *The Holy Spirit was sent to control us!* He is not available to do our bidding. He is looking for surrendered believers to do His. Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be My witnesses" (Acts 1:8) (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life*, 189).

Our ability to speculate is often the very thing that interrupts our fellowship with the Holy Spirit. There is no legitimate place in the mind of the believer for ideas, notions, dreams, or fantasies that have as part of all their content things that are contrary to the truth of God. To envision yourself telling someone off and winning the respect of others in doing so is to deceive

yourself. To rehearse in your mind imaginary conversations in which you emotionally slam-dunk another person is to meditate on sin. To mentally devise a scheme where you are benefited as the expense of someone else is to walk after the flesh. These are speculations that separate you from the Holy Spirit (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life*, 153).

Note the aggressive language Paul uses in talking about this whole issue: “And taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5). This is spiritual warfare at its most fundamental level. To win the battle here is to eliminate dozens of potential battles later on. We do have power over sin through the Holy Spirit in us. When any deceitful, lustful, self-destructive thought pops into our minds, Paul says, “Destroy it!” Recognize it for what it is; call it a lie; refuse to think about it; and reset your mind on what is true. And do it immediately (Stanley, *The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life*, 155).