



Sharing

His

Love

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

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(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission of the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 2 : Abiding - a secret to answered pray.

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.

Purpose of workshop : To look into **abiding** as a secret to answered prayer

Intended Goal: To understand the secret behind the power of prayer as exercised by the believer through a lifestyle of prayer.

Scripture readings:

*Psalms 91:1 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty.*

*John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him If ye **continue in My Word**, [then] are ye My disciples indeed;*

*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.*

*John 15:10 If ye **keep My commandments**, ye shall **abide in My love**; even as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love.*

*John 15:16 Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] **your fruit should remain**: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you.*

*2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that **abideth in the doctrine of Christ**, he hath both the Father and the Son.*

*Eph 4:17-24 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the **futility of their minds**. They are **darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart**. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!-- assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to **put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness**.*

Food for thought :

In considering the secret of abiding in our prayer-life, I would like you as a group to consider the following thoughts regarding abiding a the secret behind answered prayer:

Jesus said **John 15:4** *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.* Reason being – the branch need the food (power within) form the vine to be release in the growth and production of fruits. When we look again at the words in James 5:16 “... the earnest prayer...” means in the original Greek “energew” that originated from the word meaning to be active or efficient or effectual or to be mighty. But in the sentence it means to be at work within/put forth power from within – the meaning bearing the above mentioned in mind can be translated as follow : to release power from the source to bearing fruit in the likeness of the source. **Reminding us of what Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power #G1411, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you : and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** Power meaning = dunamij meaning **inherent power, power residing in a thing by virtue of its nature, or which a person or thing exerts and puts forth.**

The mentioned is only possible once we have manage the art of abiding, abiding in the source that give us strength, the source of the power that need to be released. So we can see that the secret is to be connected (abiding) to the source of power, so that the power can be released within us/through us.

The Greek word for abiding : menw, Pronounc: men'-o means to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy). In the sentence of us abiding in Christ it relates to a relationship (state or condition) therefore meaning **to remain as one, not to become another or different, to wait for or to await one.** To abide then have a different meaning as we tend to think of, to abide means more to remain (to be part of) to the extend that I am no longer a individual but I became part of Christ and therefore waiting on Him so that His power can be released through us, not according to the desires of the flesh but according true righteousness and holiness.

Thinking about ourselves as the Body of Christ, we cannot be separated from Christ, we are part of Christ – in fact we are the moving/doing part that react only on the command (Word) that is released – we wait until we receive the command. Consider John 15:7 the meaning of “Word” came from the Greek word **rhma** meaning an utterance (that which is or has been uttered by the living voice). To become the instrument of pray we must abide until we receive the command and then in obedience release that Word/power within.

If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Once again just a reminder - **Submission one to another** with dedicated obedience will automatically cause you to be exalted to a **position of authority.** (Ponder on this in relating it to God and man, think about Jesus and His Father) Jesus said that He speaks everything the Father tells Him to say and that He does everything His Father shows Him to do. (*That is to release the power of God working within us in an act of obedience*)

True Story:

Ezekiel 37:1-10 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD." So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

The mentioned vision is a vivid example of abiding and the result thereof. When God asked Ezekiel "can these bones live?" Ezekiel made the decision not to rely upon the futility of his mind, but to wait on God and His ability, and then released the very Words of God spoken to him in faith, resulting in an exceedingly great army.

Testimony : I have been in a situation where I believed that God called on me to pray for a man that was deaf since birth, I can not tell the story because of my disobedience. But I can ask myself what-if, what-if I acted in obedience becoming the instrument of prayer to be used by God, releasing His Word as He spoke it into my heart, that man could have been blessed. It is not about us and our own inability, it is all about God and His ability.

God's authority :

Gen 6:22 Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him. **Gen 7:1** Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

Gen 22:1-3 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

1Samuel 15:22-23 And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

Zechariah 3:7 "Thus says the LORD of hosts: If you will walk in my ways and keep my charge, then you shall rule my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you the right of access among those who are standing here.

Luke 8:21 But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

1John 2:24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

Conclusion :

Abiding as the secret to answered prayer, is to remain in the Source of our strength. The Lord gave us the Holy Spirit so that we will be able to abide in Him always. But abiding in the Source means to allow ourselves to be washed by the Word's from the Source, as the Bible said in *Ephesians 5:26-27* *That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word. That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

In abiding (**to remain as one, not to become another or different, to wait for or to await one**) we must acknowledge that we cannot be indifferent from the One we remain in. There is One Source (Jesus Christ) and all of us remaining in Him cannot be indifferent from Him we are all recreated in Christ Jesus to do the good works that God predestined for us to do. *Ephesians 2:10* *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

As the branch have been formed from the vine to produce fruit to the glory of the vine, so have we been formed in Christ Jesus to produce fruit to the glory of His name and the Father, to do that what God have planned for us to do and then created us to do it.

We can conclude that true prayer is not trying to persuade God to go our way, **but learning (remaining in Him/or waiting on Him) so that we can delight in going His way**, producing fruit to the glory of His name and according to His will. In that we are being certain of answered prayer.

Whether or not our prayers are answered depend upon our position from where we pray, do we remain as one with Christ Jesus or did we become indifferent to Him, do we wait on Him or do we do our own thing.

Questions to be answered :

1. What does it mean to abide in Jesus?
2. What does it mean for His Word's to abide in us?
3. What does it mean to become the instrument of prayer?
4. What is the secret of abiding prayer?
5. What should we do in order to abide in Christ and in His Word's?