

Sermon ~ Sunday, March 5, 2023, by Pastor Dwight Benoit

Text: John 15: 7

Title: "JESUS IS Just a Prayer Away?"

Is there anyone *present* this morning, hoping very much that something will happen? *Praying* that something would happen? Are you feeling like you have plainly, just run out of juice?

"JESUS IS Just a Prayer Away?"

Note, this 15th Chapter of John, (all written in RED...), has 21 "I's" (personal pronouns) uttering, that are in each, "a Tree of LIFE as big as GOD, is laden with The Fruits of GRACE..."

--V. 1, Our SOURCE, "**I AM The True Vine (JESUS), and MY FATHER (GOD) is the husbandman.**"

--V. 3, Our SUSTENANCE, "You are clean through **The WORD** which **I** have spoken to you."

--V. 4, Partnership, "**Abide** in **ME**, and **I** in you." (That is, stay connected to **The True Vine!**)

--V. 5, Co-Operation, "**I AM The Vine**, ye *are* the branches: **HE** that **abideth** in **ME** and **I** in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without **ME** ye can do nothing."

--V. 9, **Unconditional LOVE**, "As **The FATHER** hath loved **ME**, so have **I** **LOVED** you..."

--V. 10, Obedience, "If you keep **MY** commandments ye shall **abide** in **MY LOVE**; even as **I** have kept **MY FATHER'S** commandments, and **abide** in **HIS LOVE.**"

--V. 11, Spoken **JOY**, "These things have **I** spoken unto you, that **MY JOY** might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full." [All Relational—Relationship with GOD—JESUS CHRIST]

--Vss. 12-17, speaks of our Relationship to One Another...

Vs. 12, "...love one another, as **I** have **LOVED** you."

Vs. 14, Friendship, "...if ye do whatsoever **I** commanded you."

Vs. 15, Oneness of Friendship, "...**I** call you not servants... but **I** have called you friends... for all things **I** have heard of **MY FATHER** **I** have made know unto you."

Vs. 16, Oneness of Work, "Ye have not chosen **ME**, but **I** have chosen you and ordained you..."

Vs. 17, Commanded, "These things **I** command you, that ye love one another."

--Vss. 18-27, speaks of our Relationship to the World...

Vs. 19, Separation and Opposition, "...but **I** have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

Vs. 20, Trust **MY WORD**, "Remember **The WORD** that **I** said unto you... If they have persecuted **ME**, they will also persecute you..."

Vs. 22, Guilty, "They would not be guilty, if **I** had not come and spoken to them..."

Vs. 24, Guilty, "If **I** had not done such miraculous signs among them, that no one else could do, they would not be counted guilty..."

Vs. 26, **COMFORTER** and **SPIRIT of TRUTH**, "But when **I** send you **The COMFORTER—The SPIRIT of Truth...**" (**COMFORTER**—help, encourager, strengthener...

SPIRIT of Truth—teacher, illuminator... Both ministering to your *head* and *heart!*)

These **I's** represents **JESUS** in *Relationship* with **HIS** disciples/believers and **The Gifts of GRACE**, **HE** provides for them... These **Gifts of GRACE** are not all enjoyed at once (it's a growing process)

... it is by "**Abiding**" (vss. 4, 5, 7, 10) in communion with **CHRIST**. "It is better on before!"

"JESUS IS Just a Prayer Away?"

I call your earnest attention to our text, (John 15: 7),

“If ye abide in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** **abide** in you, ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.”

pleading that you consider with me, 3 questions...

1. What is this Special Blessing? “...ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
2. How is this Special Blessing Obtained? “If ye abide in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** **abide** in you.”
3. Why is it Obtained in this Way? What is the Reason?

1. In verse 5f, our **LORD** had warned, “to be severed (cut-off, disconnected) from **HIM**,”
we can do nothing. “...for without **ME** ye can do nothing.”

But that’s the end of the verse. **JESUS** did say, “**I AM The Vine**, ye are the branches: He that
abideth in **ME**, and **I** in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; [that is, ye shall do all spiritual
and gracious things] for without **ME** ye can do nothing.”

[You remember Alexander the Great, he changed the course of history by his victorious military
skills... on one occasion a “rural laborer” asked him for some financial aid. The Great Leader told
him to go to his Treasurer and ask for whatever amount he wanted. A little later, the Treasurer
appeared and told Alexander, that a man had asked for an enormous sum, and that he hesitated
to pay out so much. “Give him what he asks for, replied the Great conqueror. He has treated me
like a King in his asking, and I shall be like the King in my giving!”]

Point: What is this special Blessing?

“If ye abide in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.”

2. How is this Blessing Obtained? “If ye **abide** in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** **abide** in you.”

Abide, is a verb, that expresses not a feeling or a belief, but something we *do*!

The Greek is meno’ (men’-o) meaning to remain in the place or position over a period.

Meno’ means to reside, stay, live, lodge, tarry, or dwell. To take up permanent resident;

make it your home. The root word is mone (mo’-ne) from which we get our English word
“*mansion*”, suggesting, who wouldn’t want to live in a *mansion*?

How is this Blessing Obtained? “If ye **abide** in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** **abide** in you.”

3. Why is it Obtained in this Way? What is the Reason? *Simple*, **JESUS said... I... I AM...**

MY WORDS... After all **PRAYER** is nothing but taking **GOD’S Promises** to **HIM**, and saying to **HIM**,
“Do as **THOU** hast said.” **Prayer** is the promise utilized. **Prayer** that is not based on a Promise
has no true foundation.

Simple, **JESUS said... JESUS said and did**... shamefully, guilty with my sins, suffering, struggling
and stumbling up a Hill called Calvary... died, buried, and rose again... and said,

“If ye **abide** in **ME**, and **MY WORDS** **abide** in you, ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you.”

[If I go to the bank without a “check” I need not expect to get money; it is the “order to pay”
which is my power inside the Bank, and my warrant for expecting to receive.]

You that have **CHRIST’S WORDS** **abiding** in you are equipped with those things which **The LORD**
regards with attention. If **The WORD of GOD** **abideth** in you... you put your finger down on the
very lines, and say, “Do as **THOU** hast said.” Let **OMNIPOTENCE** speak to **OMNIPOTENCE** and
overcome **OMNIPOTENCE**!

{A Teacher was giving lessons to students... one child seemed distracted... she asked what the problem... he said, Teacher, I lost my marble yesterday, and I couldn't find it... can I pray to **GOD** about it? The Teacher said, go on and he prayed... the next day the boy was focus, the teacher asked, did you find your marble... he said, no Mame, **GOD** took away my desire to find it!"}