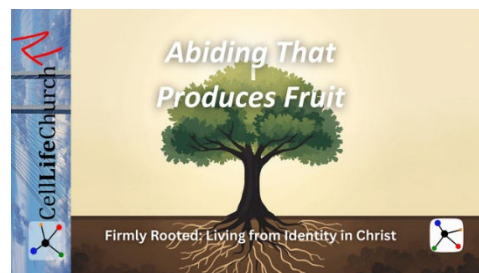


Abiding That Produces Fruit

Firmly Rooted: Living from Identity in Christ — Week

4



This teaching explains what it means to **abide in Christ** and remain connected to Jesus each day. When we stay close to Him, spiritual growth becomes steady and God produces lasting fruit in our lives.

Introduction

Today we are concluding our January teaching series, **Firmly Rooted: Living from Identity in Christ**.

In Week 1, we talked about being firmly rooted in Christ and building our lives on a strong spiritual foundation.

In Week 2, we talked about being secure in who God says we are.

In Week 3, we talked about belonging and living as people who are adopted into God's family.

Today we close this series by talking about how this identity continues to shape our daily lives.

We are talking about **abiding in Christ**.

Abiding is not about trying harder.

Abiding is about staying connected.

Abiding is about living from relationship, not effort.

When we remain connected to Jesus, our lives grow stronger, our faith grows deeper, and we begin to produce spiritual fruit that lasts.

Scripture Reading

John 15:1-8

(1) "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. (2) He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. (3) You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. (4) Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. (5) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (6) If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. (7) If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.



Abiding Means Staying Connected to Jesus

Jesus uses a very simple picture. He says He is the vine, and we are the branches. A branch has one job. A branch must remain connected to the vine.

If the branch stays connected, life flows into it. The branch grows. The branch produces fruit.
If the branch disconnects, it dries up. It becomes weak. It cannot produce anything.

Jesus teaches us the same truth about our spiritual lives.

We do not grow strong by trying harder.
We grow strong by staying connected to Jesus.

Abiding means we live close to Him. We remain with Him. We depend on Him.

Many people think discipleship is mainly about doing more, trying harder, and pushing forward. But Jesus shows us a different path.

A healthy Christian life grows from connection, not pressure.

Reflection

Ask yourself:

Have I been trying to live the Christian life without staying closely connected to Jesus?

Have I been depending on my own strength instead of His?

Fruit Comes from Relationship, Not Striving

Jesus says something very direct: "Apart from Me you can do nothing."

That is a humbling statement, but it is also a freeing statement.

Jesus is not saying that we cannot do anything at all in life. We can work, plan, and accomplish many things. But without Him, we cannot produce lasting spiritual fruit.

We cannot manufacture love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control through effort alone. These qualities grow as we remain with Jesus.

Fruit is the overflow of a life connected to Christ.

Many believers feel discouraged because they want to change, but they keep struggling.

They try to be more patient, but frustration continues.

They try to overcome fear, but anxiety returns.

They want to forgive, but the pain remains.

When that happens, the answer is not always more pressure. Often, the answer is deeper connection.

Abiding does not remove all struggle, but it changes the source of strength.

Pruning and Growth

Jesus also talks about pruning. Pruning is part of growth. Pruning is not punishment.



A gardener prunes a healthy plant so it becomes more fruitful. Sometimes God removes things from our lives. Sometimes He reshapes our priorities. Sometimes He changes our direction.

Pruning can feel uncomfortable, but it is not a sign that God has left you. It can be a sign that God is growing you.

If you are in a season of change or stretching, stay connected to Jesus. Trust Him in the pruning. God grows fruit in every season.

Share and Encourage Others

What helps you stay connected to Jesus in your daily life?

Your response may encourage someone who is trying to remain faithful in a busy or difficult season.

Abiding Through God's Word and Prayer

Jesus teaches that abiding includes His words remaining in us. This means we do not only visit Scripture occasionally. We allow Scripture to shape us.

When we read God's Word, we are not simply gathering information. We are staying connected to the heart of God.

The Word of God renews our minds, strengthens our faith, corrects our direction, and comforts our hearts.

Jesus also connects abiding with prayer. When we remain with Him, our desires begin to change. Our prayers become more aligned with His will.

Prayer is not a performance. Prayer is relationship.

Abiding means we keep turning toward Jesus throughout the day.

We talk to Him.

We listen.

We repent.

We thank Him.

We trust Him.

And slowly, over time, fruit grows.

A Simple Abiding Daily Devotion

Here is a simple daily devotion that helps many believers:

1. Read a short passage of Scripture
2. Ask God what He is showing you



3. Pray one honest prayer in response
4. Obey one small step of faith

Small steps of abiding produce lasting spiritual growth.

Conclusion

As we close this January series, let us remember what we have learned.

Being firmly rooted in Christ gives us a strong foundation.

Knowing our identity in Christ gives us confidence and peace.

Belonging to God's family reminds us we are adopted, not abandoned.

Now we take the next step.

We learn to abide.

We stay connected to Jesus.

We depend on His strength.

We allow His Word to shape us.

We pray with trust.

We grow slowly and faithfully.

Fruit does not appear overnight. Fruit grows over time.

If you feel discouraged, do not give up.

Stay connected to Jesus.

Remain in Him.

Trust God to grow what is needed in your life.

This Week

This week, we encourage you to practice abiding in a simple way.

- Read John 15:1–8 each day
- Choose one verse that stands out to you
- Pray and ask Jesus to help you remain connected to Him
- Take one small step of obedience in response

As you remain connected to Christ, God will grow fruit in your life.

Looking Ahead

This concludes our January series, **Firmly Rooted: Living from Identity in Christ**.



Thank you for joining us. We are grateful you are part of our global Cell Life Church family. We look forward to continuing this journey of faith together.



For Leaders and Small Groups

Main Truth

Abiding in Christ produces lasting fruit because spiritual growth comes from connection, not striving.

Key Scripture

John 15:1–8

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to abide in Christ in everyday life?
2. What are some signs that someone is striving instead of abiding?
3. How does God's Word help you stay connected to Jesus?
4. What does prayer look like when it is relational instead of performance-based?
5. What is one small step of abiding you can practice this week?

Suggested Practice

Invite each person to commit to reading John 15:1–8 daily this week and to practice the four-step daily devotion. Encourage them to share what they learn and what changes as they stay connected to Jesus.

