

Day 1—Abiding in Christ

John 15:1-17

Suggestions for Intercessory Prayer

Feel free to claim other promises as well. Remember, all of God's biddings are His enablings!

➤ **Praise God that it is Christ who bears fruit in you.**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. John 15:4

➤ **Praise God for the ways He is teaching you to abide in Him.**

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Col. 2:6, 7

➤ **Pray that God will teach you how to abide in Him.**

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts. Zech. 4:6

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. John 15:16

➤ **Pray that God's Holy Spirit will be poured upon you so that you will bear the fruit of the Spirit.**

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. . . . And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28, 29

That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. . . . Col. 1:10, 11

➤ **Pray that God will help you understand better your need to abide in Him and give you the desire to do so.**

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. John 15:4

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom. 12:2

➤ **Pray that family and friends will have the desire and learn how to abide in Him.**

Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh. Ezek. 11:19

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Rom. 8:5

➤ **Pray for the unity of the church in the truth.**

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. John 17:20, 21

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 1 Cor. 1:10

- **Pray for the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, for the delegates, and for the decisions that will be made there. Pray that the delegates will abide in Christ, that they will be totally surrendered to Him, and that the Holy Spirit will lead in every decision.**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. James 1:5

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:16, 17

- **Pray for church leaders (your local pastor, conference, union, division, and General Conference leaders), that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit and abide in Christ.**

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom. 12:2

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. Gal. 2:20

- **Pray for expanded emphasis on the Revival and Reformation theme for members, conferences, unions, institutions, divisions, and the General Conference. Remember the 777 prayer initiative for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit's latter rain.**

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28, 29

- **Pray for a wonderful harvest of souls resulting from seeds planted during the *Great Controversy* Distribution Project in all its various formats.**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 2 Cor. 9:6

- **Pray for every member to feel a burden for soul winning and to realize that heaven asks all of us to follow Christ's steps in sharing our personal faith with God's guidance.**

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matt. 9:37, 38

- **Mission to the Cities—Pray for the East-Central Africa Division and the cities they have chosen to work in: Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Kampala, Uganda; Kananga, West Congo; Lodwar, Kenya; Kigali, Rwanda; Lubumbashi, East Congo; Goma, North East Congo; Magara, Burundi; and Juba, South Sudan. Pray for the strongholds of Satan to be broken and relationships with Christ to be established.**

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they

preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" Rom. 10:14, 15

➤ **Pray for any personal needs or anything on your heart.**

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Prov. 3:5, 6

➤ **Praise God for the different ways Jesus set us an example of how to abide in God.**

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work." John 4:34

➤ **Praise God in advance for how He is going to work and answer your prayers.**

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

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 15:57

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Eph. 3:20

At the end of prayer time, you may want to form groups of two or three and pray for the seven people that you have on your list. Pray that they will have an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. Claim John 14:23 for them: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." If you have a personal prayer request that you are not comfortable praying about in the large group, feel free to share with your partner and pray about it together.

Suggested Songs

"Live Out Thy Life Within Me" (*SDA Hymnal* #316); "Yes, Lord, I Give My Life to You"; "I Need Thee Every Hour" (*SDA Hymnal* #483); "Seek Ye First"; "Draw Me Nearer" (*SDA Hymnal* #306); "I Surrender All" (*SDA Hymnal* #309).

Ellen White on Abiding in Christ

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.—John 15:4, 5

“Abide in me” are words of great significance. Abiding in Christ means a living, earnest, refreshing faith that works by love and purifies the soul. It means a constant receiving of the spirit of Christ, a life of unre-served surrender to His service. Where this union exists, good works will appear. The life of the vine will manifest itself in fragrant fruit on the branches. The continual supply of the grace of Christ will bless you and make you a blessing, till you can say with Paul, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20) (*Our Father Cares*, p. 124).

It is not a casual touch with Christ that is needed, but it is to abide with Him. He called you to abide with Him. He does not propose to you a short-lived blessedness that is realized occasionally through earnest seeking of the Lord and passes away as you engage in the common duties of life. Your abiding with Christ makes every necessary duty light, for He bears the weight of every burden. He has prepared for you to abide with Him. This means that you are to be conscious of an abiding Christ, that you are continually with Christ, where your mind is encouraged and strengthened. . . .

Do not stand outside of Christ, as many professed Christians of today. To “abide in me, and I in you” is a possible thing to do, and the invitation would not be given if you could not do this. Jesus our Saviour is constantly drawing you by His Holy Spirit, working with your mind that you will abide with Christ. . . . The blessings He bestows are all connected with your own individual action. Shall Christ be refused? He says, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). Of another class He says, “Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life” (John 5:40) (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 55).

The Lord needs men and women who carry with them into the daily life the light of a godly example, men and women whose words and actions show that Christ is abiding in the heart, teaching, leading, and guiding. He needs men and women of prayer, who, by wrestling alone with God, obtain the victory over self, and then go forth to impart to others that which they have received from the Source of power (*To Be Like Jesus*, p. 262).

“By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20), the Saviour declared. All the true followers of Christ bear fruit to His glory. Their lives testify that a good work has been wrought in them by the Spirit of God, and their fruit is unto holiness. Their lives are elevated and pure. Right actions are the unmistakable fruit of true godliness, and those who bear no fruit of this kind reveal that they have no experience in the things of God. They are not in the Vine. Said Jesus, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me. 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” (John 15:4, 5) (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 329).

As the branch must abide in the vine to obtain the vital sap which causes it to flourish, so those who love God and keep all His sayings must abide in His love. Without Christ we cannot subdue a single sin or overcome the smallest temptation. Many need the Spirit of Christ and His power to enlighten their understanding, as much as blind Bartimaeus needed his natural sight. “As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me.” All who are really in Christ will experience the benefit of this union. The Father accepts them in the Beloved, and they become objects of His solicitude and tender, loving care. This connection with Christ will result in the purification of the heart and in a circumspect life and faultless character. The fruit borne upon the Christian tree is “love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance” (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 355).

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. How much do you want Christ to abide in you and you in Christ? Ask God in a special way to give you a deep desire to abide in Him.
2. Is there anything that would hinder the Holy Spirit from transforming your life? Take those things to God in prayer and surrender them to Him.



**Let's
Pray!**