

CHAPTER 1

ABIDE IN THE WORD

...."I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so 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, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch, and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is My Father glorified. that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me. I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments, and abide in His love...."

John 15:1-10

THE "SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION"

The more a believer "meditates" on the Word of God and brings every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (Joshua 1:8; 2 Corinthians 10:5), the more they are caught up in the "Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17). In other words, in everything that they do they are both seeking and experiencing a revelation of whatever the Father is doing, and has done, at all times. This position of nearness to the Father and His Word is something to be sought after - and to be desired above all else - by every child of God; for then He is able to fellowship with us and reveal to us all those things which are closest to His heart. As we desire more than anything else to know God and to draw near to Him, we shall find ourselves continually in a position to receive an ever-expanding "revelation" of the Father, the Son and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

THE ULTIMATE BLESSING OF THE LIFE OF ABIDING: THE "SPONTANEOUS" MANIFESTATION OF THE ABSOLUTE LOVE AND LIGHT AND LIFE (ZOE) OF GOD IN ANY GIVEN MOMENT

Every child of God needs a strong and deep revelation of the Word "abide" because it is the "essence" of our relationship with God. As the Holy Spirit began to teach me of the meaning of the word abide (as it applies to the true Christian life) He used breathing as an example. As we breath in and breath out we do not "consciously" think of every breath and, in the same way, our relationship with the Father - that is, our entrance into the fulness of His "rest" - is based on that very same idea, in that we do not always have "conscious" thought as we go forth in faith and obedience and love. It is certain that there are times - as we start out in our Christian walk - wherein we are more aware of the things of the physical realm, that is, the things which are seen, than we are of the things which are not seen (2 Corinthians 4:18), but as we continually hold the Word of God in our highest esteem - and thus are renewed in our minds and purified in our hearts - we come into that precious place of "abiding" which the Father desires each one of His children to be in. There are times in the beginning of our spiritual journey wherein we "feel" we are consciously striving or working in our handling of God's will, but as we feed and feed upon the Word of God His love is shed abroad in our hearts to such a great degree - as we persevere in a perfect diligence towards His affairs - that every word we speak, every action we take, every feeling we feel, every thought that we allow ourselves to think and every motivation which drives us on, shall be a "spontaneous" manifestation of the absolute love and life (Zoe) of God.

This latter statement may seem impossible to many, but such are the blessings of abiding; blessings which come to the child of God as they begin to love the Lord their God with EVERY fibre of their being - seeking only to establish His Kingdom and His righteousness in the earth (Luke 10:27; Matthew 6:33).

THE WAY TO THE PLACE OF ABIDING IS THE WAY OF THE CROSS

As we open our hearts wide to the discipline of God, a discipline which is always for our good, we become partakers of His life and holiness (Hebrews 12:10), casting down the old nature by way of the Cross to enter into - and remain

in - the presence of our loving Father. O that we might continually "strive" - in and by the Holy Spirit to reach that place of abiding and, once there, come to view all things which would remove us from that exalted place as "deadly poison"! As we grow to know the nature (Love) and purposes of the Father, we shall soon come to understand His ardent desire for each of us to live in the "secret place of His presence" (Psalm 31:20; Psalm 41:12) and the joy and the pleasure He receives when His beloved children place Him first in their lives - above all the sin and temptation of the world. Let there be no mistake with regard to the importance of abiding, for as we shall see it is the only way to Life (John 14:6).

WE MUST CONTINUALLY (CONSISTENTLY) CAST DOWN ANY THOUGHT OR SPECULATION THAT ATTEMPTS TO EXALT ITSELF ABOVE THE REVEALED KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WORD

In the first stages of our obedience to the Word of God, we believe the Word with our "minds", but in many cases that word has not yet been revealed to our hearts and thus we need to continually stand on that word - not "allowing" ourselves to be moved by any circumstances which may surround us. As we do this moment by moment, day by day, in EVERY facet of our lives, and as we continually cast down any thought or speculation which exalts itself against the revealed knowledge of God's Word, THEN AND ONLY THEN are we able to come to that secret place of abiding in God's presence. As we are introduced by the Holy Spirit to that portion of God's Word which applies to our current situation we must stand in faith on that Word, without regard for "any" of our physical circumstances, THEN, through our faith and by the power of God, that Word shall be moved from our mind and any area of potential "mental ascension", to our heart, and thus become to us a "solid rock" upon which to stand. Revelation knowledge can in no way come to us through the five physical senses, therefore, as we seek to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus - the Author and developer of our faith - that is, keeping our eyes fixed on the things which are not perceived through our five physical senses, (the whole spiritual realm) the anointing, which abides within us shall reveal the Word to us, not only as it applies to God's overall plan for the Church, but also how it applies to our own portion in that plan.

THE FIRST PREREQUISITE TO RECEIVING REVELATION KNOWLEDGE IS THE DESIRE IN ONE'S HEART IS TO "KNOW" THE FATHER AND HIS WORD IN THEIR "ABSOLUTENESS" - ABOVE ALL ELSE

The first prerequisite to receiving revelation knowledge is the desire in one's heart to "know" the Father and His Word in their "absoluteness" - above all else. If our first and foremost desire is to seek a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, then the Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, shall be "enabled" to separate us from any desire which we might have within us to "mentally ascend" to His Holy Word. Many Christians believe that the Bible is true. Some "believe" that in Christ there is deliverance from every form of temporal evil; some "believe" in the ministry of angels and the divine protection we have under the Covenant, but there are few who have a revelation of the fact that ALL of these things (and more) belong to us and thus they fail to walk free of the bondage which "dependence" upon the ways of this world brings, and when the storms of this life begin to encompass them they shall surely perish to some degree in the area of their lives which is "governed" by unbelief. If one does not "seek" to stay in a position of abiding in the Word of God, moment by moment, day by day, somewhere along the line they will find themselves in a position of utter helplessness before the enemy's assault. Indeed, it is a very subtle form of mental ascension in the child of God which says, "I believe the whole Bible is true", and yet through their lack of diligence in their handling of God's Word they have allowed themselves to come to a place wherein Satan is able to openly attack them. Because they have, in some way, "maintained" (held to) a "carnal" life, and because they have not allowed (or obeyed) the Holy Spirit to reveal those things that they need to separate themselves from in order to CONTINUALLY be cleansed from all defilement of flesh and spirit, they leave themselves in a position of great danger - particularly now that we have entered into the "final stretch". As we continue on in our study of "abiding", we shall see above all, that God's requirement is for His children to live moment by moment, day by day, in absolute dependence upon His Word and His Spirit, and if we choose to take a path which does not conform with the Divine requirement then indeed we have chosen - in some form - death over life. Our strict adherence to the revealed knowledge of God's Word is the sole standard of measure by which we shall fail or succeed in this earth and there is no other! Therefore, as we love the Lord our God with our whole heart (Luke 10:27) and thus seek to obey Him in ALL that we do, our every action shall be found to be conformed perfectly to His

Will for His Church and for all mankind. These things I have just spoken of are both "weighty" and eternal, but it is necessary to speak of them as the finality and lateness of the hour becomes more apparent with each passing moment and it is certain that our "Christian walk" in this earth was never meant to be handled or treated lightly.

THE "BRIDLING" OF THE TONGUE

We, as children of God, should never allow any word which is not in accordance with the "revealed" knowledge of God's Word to come out of our mouths (Ephesians 4:29). As we allow the Holy Spirit to "bridle" our tongues and as we CONTINUALLY fill our hearts with the Word of God until we can truly say that His Word is in our hearts in "abundance", we must refrain from speaking anything which we are not "assured" of being in accordance with the will of God. Every word that the Christian speaks which is not in accordance with the will of God serves only to "misrepresent" both the Father and His Word and although I shall not expound on this matter to any great degree at this time it is of the utmost importance! One of the greatest areas of weakness in the "past" history of the church, is the failure of God's children to bridle their tongues (James 3:1-2) - disclosing both the fact that they have little or no desire to accomplish the fulness of God's will and that they have little or no revelation of the "absolute" importance of words and their effect in this earth (Proverbs 18:21). The Father desires each of us to be conformed to Him in ALL our ways, in ALL our thoughts, in ALL our words and in ALL of our actions, and to those who think that this is not possible (unattainable) in their own lives, they may rest assured that ALL that God commands and ALL that He requires of us, He also empowers us, through the Anointing which abides within us (Ephesians 3:20) - that is, the Holy Spirit - to fulfil all that He has called us to (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

"CHRISTIANS" SHOULD NOT BE FOUND SIMPLY VOICING THEIR "OPINIONS"

If one truly desires to speak the Truth above ALL else then God is faithful to enlarge our hearts and bless us with a continually deeper revelation of the importance of our obedience in this area of speaking "wholesome words" (Ephesians 4:29). Christians should not be voicing "their opinions" (opinion - a conclusion or judgement held with confidence, but falling short of exact or true

knowledge.), but rather only the revealed knowledge, that is, the absolute truth of God, in all that proceeds forth out of their mouths. For us, as children of God, there is only one truth and as mentioned previously every word we speak must be in accordance with that Truth; for if any word we speak is found to be outside of and apart from that truth then it is only possible for us to "misrepresent" the One we serve and thus "error" is born. Although there are many who would choose to disregard the importance of these things, if one's words are not "representing" Jesus Christ and the purposes of God then they are representing Satan and his purposes - which are to divide and destroy the true Church of God. How absolute is our God! Let us not be found fighting against Him in any way, through arrogance and pride, but let us draw near to Him (James 4:8-11) and humble ourselves before Him that we might truly represent Him in all that we do.

THE FEAR OF BEING DECEIVED

Many Christians allow themselves to enter into an area of fear because they say they fear being wrong and they fear being deceived. But in truth, there are only two motivations which one can have in this situation. One: "What will others think of me if I am wrong"; Two: "I have an appreciation of the holiness of God and I love Him with all my heart and I do not want to misrepresent Him in anyway - regardless of what others may think". Outwardly two people may say the same words, but inwardly their motivation may be at opposite ends of the spectrum. Therefore let us abide in the Word of God, for that Word is indeed living and active and able to divide between that which is of the soul and that which is of the spirit, and able to judge the deepest thoughts and intentions of our heart (Hebrews 4:12) As the love of God is continually shed abroad in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5), our every desire and motivation shall come into perfect accordance with the thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart (Matthew 5:48). If our first and foremost desire is to truly represent Jesus Christ and to walk above error in all of our ways then God through His abundant grace and power shall see to it that we have the desires of our heart (John 15:7). But if, on the other hand we retain "fear" and seek only to please men above God, then we shall surely stumble in error and darkness until such time as a "deep" repentance is forthcoming. Let us not be deceived for each and every person who walks this earth will carry out the "desires of their heart". Let us abide in the Word of God in order that our EVERY DESIRE might be to please the Father and live only for the carrying out of His will in this earth. If our sole desire is to represent Jesus Christ

"perfectly". God shall illuminate our way and cause us to walk above "all" deception and error and we shall not retain any desire whatsoever to speak or do anything which we do not "know" to be revealed knowledge. It makes no difference how new one is to the Kingdom of God! If ones's heart is towards God in all things then all of their ways shall be established (Proverbs 4:24- 26) and as they go forth speaking only the revealed knowledge of God's Word that is "abiding" in their heart, all that comes against them shall SURELY fail, for there is NOTHING that is able to stand before the uncompromised Word of God.

THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOTHING MORE - AND NOTHING LESS - THAN A SERIES OF "PROGRESSIVE" REVELATIONS AND "OBEDIENCES"

As we walk in all the "light" that we have at all times, we shall have revealed to our hearts, to a continually greater degree, the deeper things of the Kingdom of God (Psalm 119:32). The true Christian life is nothing more and nothing less than a series of "progressive" revelations and "obediences" as we carry out our "pilgrimage" in the earth.

Each and every one of us are called to a different "portion" of the Father's task and yet everything that each one of us does is in complete accordance with the overall purpose and plan of God - WITH EACH TASK BEING OF NO GREATER OR LESSER IMPORTANCE THAN THE OTHER in the eternal scheme of things (1 Corinthians 12:12- 27). There are many who would attempt to "talk a good game" as far as service to God goes, but we must not allow ourselves to be deceived, for the Father ALWAYS looks upon the heart of a man (1 Samuel 16:7) and there is nothing which remains hidden from Him. There are some who have placed their "dependence" upon those things which are outside of the Anointing which God has given us to accomplish all things in accordance with His will. Somewhere along the way, they have "allowed" the motivations of their heart to be swayed over to an area which includes seeking "something" for themselves. This is precisely why each one of us must fix our gaze upon Jesus the Author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2), in order that our "every" heart motivation might be in accordance with the will of God - every moment of every day. The first motivation leads us to the place wherein we will seek to do God's will in all things at all cost to ourselves. The second motivation causes us to retain the "fear" of what men think and thus to allay that fear we seek to please men before God.

The end result of this motivation shall ALWAYS lead us to a place wherein we are exalting ourselves - in some way - above God and His Word! Let each of us see the seriousness of this matter and let us realize the absolute need that we have to depend upon the Anointing, which abides within us, for all things. For if we place our dependence anywhere outside the revealed knowledge of God's Word and the precious Anointing abiding within us we shall SURELY be held captive by Satan to carry out his schemes (2 Timothy 2:26).

BEWARE THE "SPIRITS OF DARKNESS"

...."I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing"....

John 15:15

UP UNTIL THIS TIME, many acts in the church have been carried out apart from Jesus Christ, that is, through actions which are a product of the "flesh" (the wisdom of man) rather than the wisdom of God. There is no end to the depth of sin which one will stoop to if they "allow" themselves to be infiltrated by a spirit of darkness (Isaiah 60:1-3). The only way that one is able to prevent themselves from being influenced or infiltrated by spirit of darkness is to have a "heart" which is filled with Light and we know that it is only the entrance of God's Word that brings that Light (Psalm 119:130). As we continually keep the Word of God before our eyes, we shall learn to "measure" that Word fully - moment by moment. For as we give our full attention to the Word at all times, the Holy Spirit is then enabled to guide us into "all" truth and to enlarge our heart and expand our capacity to receive the deeper truths of God's Kingdom. In this last hour, EVERY Christian is going to be brought to the place where they are going to have to make a "quality decision" to go all out for God and should they choose - by their own free will - to go the way of the world, THEN darkness shall enter into their hearts and they shall stumble and perish in their blindness and hardness of heart.

"COME BOLDLY BEFORE THE THRONE OF GRACE"

To forsake all to follow Jesus is to bring every one of our thoughts captive to "His obedience" (perfect obedience) and all that that entails (2 Corinthians 10:5). The "nearer" we are to the Word of God the more attention we give that

Word and the easier it becomes to bring our every thought captive to it. Therefore one can see clearly that as we give our FULL attention to the things of God we shall be empowered to carry out all that we are called to do and through our perseverance and our obedience we shall come to, and remain in, that holy place of "abiding". But let us not deceive ourselves in this final hour into thinking that we can experience the deeper blessings of God without obedience to His Word for if one retains fear (sin) in their heart then they shall not have the "necessary" assurance (confidence) to draw near to the Father - and thus dwell in His presence. But as one comes to a total reliance upon the Anointing that abides within, they shall see clearly that the Father did not give to us a spirit of fear, but a Spirit of power and love and of a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7) and they shall have both the confidence and the continual desire to come boldly before the Throne of Grace.

EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US, AS CHRISTIANS, HAS THE GOD-GIVEN ABILITY TO WALK IN LOVE - AT ALL TIMES!

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

John 15:7

As one comes to "abide" in the Word of God their highest will and deepest desire come into perfect accord with the deepest thoughts and intentions of the Father's heart and thus, whatever they ask (pray) shall come to pass, quite simply because that which they have asked for has the love of God as the source of its motivation.

...."By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love"...

John 15:8-10

Obedience to the Word of God brings forth in us the ability (by the power of God) to walk in love at all times, thus keeping us in a position wherein we shall never violate the "law of love". This is of extreme importance because Satan will always attempt to cause the child of God to walk outside of love and the way that

he does this is through "temptation" and through self-exalting thoughts which he attempts to place in our thinking. THEN, if we conform in any way to those thoughts then we shall, in some way, violate the law of love through our words and actions. But on the other hand, as we faithfully bring every thought captive to obedience (to the revealed Word of God) THEN any attempt which Satan makes against us shall be quickly discarded and seen for what it is: a lie! It is in this way that we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to remain constant as a vessel of God's love and truth. Without Love as the source of EVERY motivation any so-called "work" which we do for the Kingdom shall not have God's "blessing" upon it and unless repentance is forthcoming that work shall be exposed for what it is - a work of Satan! This is the reason why the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not in greater and purer manifestation in the church. There is either strife or selfishness in the midst of the congregation and thus the Father is not able to manifest His presence in the way in which He desires to. Satan is a defeated foe, but even he acknowledges the fact that unless he perseveres twenty-four hours a day in his attempts against the children of God, he will not even have so much as a chance. And so we must realize that the Father calls us to the place of "abiding" - to make our home in His Word and allow His Word to make His home in us. For it is only in this way that we shall overcome in all things: overcome Satan, overcome sin and overcome the world. We must realize that God did not command us to love Him with every fibre of our being for "selfish" reasons. This commandment, as well as every other commandment is given to us in order that we might walk above all the temporal evils of this world and that we might always walk in a position of victory and prosperity in all that we do - thus transcending at all times even the most vile schemes of Satan to destroy us or cause us harm in any way (2 Thessalonians 3:3). Let us take these spiritual realities to heart and begin to fashion our lives in accordance with the Divine will of the Father. For in doing so, we shall surely begin to walk in the fulness of our inheritance in Christ.

AN "ABIDING" REST

When we first enter into the Kingdom of God each of us has but a little revelation of the Father's love toward us. The way that God's love is shed abroad in our heart is for us to feed continually on His Word in close and intimate fellowship with Him and, as we open our heart to receive that Word implanted (James 1:21), the Anointing upon that Word causes the love (light) of God to be shed abroad there. As we abide in that love, perfect obedience to His will shall be

our ONLY quest - and as that is our only quest, so shall we continually abide in the love of God. It is only a sinful and wicked heart which desires to "fellowship" with those things and people which are apart from God and thus, if we are truly honest we shall lay down "our" lives and ask the Father to conform EVERY motivation of our heart to His loving ways; for He is an absolute God and when He requires us to surrender, then He requires an absolute surrender - a surrender which can only truly be measured by the surrender which was upon the life of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:5-8). Let us not be deceived in any way as to our calling and as to the Divine Requirement which the Father has set before us in His Word. Let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit (2 Corinthians 7:1) and enter into that place of an abiding rest. For this position and this position alone is acceptable in the sight of God. The Father has so much in store for each of us and as we open our hearts to Him - refusing to be distracted by the "glitter" of this world - then He is enabled to reveal the vastness of those blessings which He has provided for us in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:30). If we will not restrain ourselves in the area of seeking Him from a pure heart then, in every situation His love and His righteousness shall flow forth in such a way as to lift us above our "circumstances". What an important revelation this is and each one of us must have it "burning brightly" in our hearts at all times in order to remain an effective light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (Philippians 2:15).

THE SPONTANEOUS AND CONTINUAL MANIFESTATION OF THE FATHER'S LIFE AND LOVE

In every situation that we enter into we have a distinct choice of placing our reliance upon the Word of God or upon the darkened wisdom of our own understanding. It is as we continually place our dependence upon the Word of God - by our own choice - that we shall be enabled to stand on that Word and have it revealed to us in our experience. In other words, we shall learn how to apply the Word of God to every facet of our lives - from the most minor details to the most "critical" decisions - and as we abide in the Word of God, His "influence" shall be spontaneously manifested in our lives at all times. There is no "striving" to abide in the "strength" of the "flesh", but rather only a spontaneous manifestation of God's life and love through us - regardless of our circumstances. Quite simply, as we apply "absolute faith" (working through an absolute love) to His Word, THEN He shall be enabled to take care of everything else, for our every heart motivation

shall be in perfect conformity to His will and thus all the things we need - spirit, soul, and body shall be added to us by His power - in His "perfect timing".

WE MUST FIND ALL OF OUR SATISFACTION AND CONTENTMENT IN THE FATHER - AND IN THE CARRYING OUT OF HIS WILL

Many children of God place themselves at a distance to the Word and BECAUSE OF THIS the pressures of this life, the afflictions of the evil one and the temptation to sin are all able to easily overcome them. It is certain that not until one has reached the end of their "own" striving (doing their own works) will they turn their eyes "completely" back to the Father and His Word and come to abide in that place of perfect fellowship with Him. We must find ALL of our satisfaction in the Father and in the doing of His will - for the "contentment" which one finds apart from doing the will of God and apart from the "provisions" of God, is a contentment and comfort that "kills" (Proverbs 14:12)! As soon as we stop seeking the light then darkness has an opportunity to enter in, and in this last hour this is truly a most dangerous thing! It is certain that if we are not allowing the wisdom of God to be revealed to our hearts then we are allowing "ungodly" wisdom to enter our minds and hearts and influence our "thinking" (Colossians 3:1-3). To whatever degree we fellowship with the Wisdom of God it is to that degree that darkness shall not find a place in us and to whatever degree we choose to fellowship with the darkened wisdom of this world it is to that degree that the Word shall not be able to find a place in us. It is so important for us to operate in the wisdom of God, for in doing so, we are enabled to see the deeper aspects of the Kingdom and are empowered to do the "works" of God (John 14:12).

THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT

With each passing day the separation is growing between those who seek first the establishment of God's Kingdom and those who - through their carnality - have forsaken God to go their "own" way. These are those ones who present only a form of godliness, but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). The power, which has been "denied" in this passage is the Anointing (or the Holy Spirit) which abides within us (1 John 2:27). In our hearts we must have established the fact that all which proceeds forth from the flesh - that is the "fallen" nature of man - profits nothing, and that it is only the Holy Spirit Who can, and is to, give life (John 6:63). Truly one of the great manifestations of the life of "abiding" is that our

spirit and soul are "clearly" divided. In other words we are continually able to distinguish that which proceeds from the Holy Spirit through our spirit and that which proceeds from Satan through our "thought-life" and which the "flesh" is only too ready to agree with. Through our constant "practice" of faith and obedience - in constant fellowship with the Father and His Word of God - we shall surely have our senses "trained" to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14), thus leaving "no doubt" to the source of our every thought and action. The reason why many have not experienced this deeper facet of the Christian life is because of their slothfulness and lack of diligence in their handling of the things of God. For these things which I have just spoken of belong not to those who seek for themselves in wickedness, but rather they belong to those children of God who "seek" to be obedient in all things and in so doing, please the Father at all times.

"IF YOU ABIDE IN MY WORD"

...."If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"....

John 8:31-32

Many quote the scripture, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free", yet they totally disregard the preceding verse, which states, "If you abide in My Word, then you are truly disciples of Mine". There are many who would follow after Jesus but, because of their unwillingness to forsake ALL in following Him, they never quite come to that place where they are truly "free" - free from sin, free from all those things which would prevent them drawing near to God. It is only as one begins to receive a deeper revelation of the power of the Blood of Jesus that they even begin to understand what it truly means to draw near to and abide in His Word. It is in this place of revelation that they also begin to realize that the Word of God and the Holy Spirit are the "absolute" provision which the Father has blessed us with in this earth; and that it is only through them that we will be entirely separated from "all" that which is not of Christ within us. Let us make no mistake concerning these things for to wilfully ignore the Word of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to violate the law of love (James 2:8) and until repentance is forthcoming, we set ourselves on a path which may "seem" right, but whose end is the way of death.

"THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS"

It is certain that there are many lies and deceptions and pitfalls which Satan "attempts" to lay across our path, but as we diligently seek to walk upon the "highway of holiness" (Isaiah 35:8-9) we shall see that the path that the Father has prepared for us from before the foundations of the earth is "raised above" all the "temporal" evils of this world - even though at times it may seem that we are walking right in the very midst of them. As long as we "seek" to obey in all things and thus do not turn to the right or the left - keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus - the Holy Spirit shall direct our paths in such a way as to lead us into the fulness of our inheritance in Christ and empower us to fulfil the "ministry" which we were created to fulfil (Ephesians 2:10) and from this glorious place we shall SURELY come to abide in the fulness of the authority that is ours in Christ (the "ascension" life).

PERFECT VESSELS

The Father desires a Church which shall walk in perfect harmony with the thoughts and intentions of His heart - that we might be "perfect vessels" of His love and truth - and if we are truly going to walk in the fulness of His will - both individually and corporately - we are going to have to have ALL unforgiveness and rebellion removed from our heart. The only way for this to be truly accomplished in us is to abide in the Word of God. This fact cannot be emphasized too much, for until one has a true and deep revelation of the power of the Blood of Jesus and the power of the Anointing which abides within to lead them into ALL truth and teach them ALL things, they shall not give the Word of God the pre-eminent position in their lives which He deserves - and in this last of the last hour such foolishness shall result in both tragedy and failure rather than the victory and success which the Father has called us to walk in as His children (Ephesians 3:16-9).

TRUE DISCIPLESHIP VERSUS FALSE DISCIPLESHIP

True discipleship is not based solely upon our "works" (activities). Its base is found in the "root" of our desire. Is our desire to seek the Lord our God with our whole heart at ALL times or does our desire to serve Him with a whole heart fade from time to time in order that we might lean upon our own understanding through

an element of "self-desire".

Jesus said,

"If you abide in My Word then you are truly disciples of Mine; and then you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

So first and foremost - ABOVE ALL ELSE - we must seek diligently a revelation of what the Father truly requires of each one of us; for as we do He shall surely reveal to our hearts those things which we need to do to continue on - moment by moment, day by day. If - IN OUR HEART - we stop even for one moment in our quest for a deeper revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ, then our only alternative is to seek those things which are apart from Him; and if we do we shall indeed be led into error (rebellion) and into an area of false discipleship. A disciple is not only a pupil but an "adherent", hence we are spoken of as imitators of our Teacher, for we know from the Word of God that we are called to walk in the same manner that Jesus walked while He was in the earth (1 John 2:6).

ALL OF OUR "RELATIONSHIPS" MUST BE GIVEN OVER TO THE FATHER

...."This I command you, that you love on another. If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of this world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, if they kept My Word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My Name's sake because they do not know the One who sent Me"....

John 15:17-21

As one begins to calculate the cost of truly forsaking ALL to follow Jesus - that is, to be a "true" disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ - EVERY facet of our lives must be laid before the Father and His Word so that He might "renew" us in all things, to Himself. All of our "relationships" must be given over to Him in order that we should have no dependence upon "anything" which is apart from Him. If we retain any dependence upon the things which are apart from Christ that dependence shall eventually lead us out of God's will. As we seek to abide in the

Word of God daily - having separated ourselves unto that Word - and as we grow spiritually and are used to a greater degree continually by God, many strange "happenings" begin to take place around us. All those people who are not of "like mind and heart" with us shall begin to remove themselves from our "presence". On their part, they begin to feel uncomfortable around the presence of the Holy Spirit and, on Satan's part, it is a persecution against us through them in order to "sidetrack" us from the narrow path of the Father's perfect will.

AS THE REVELATION OF GOD'S WORD BURNS CONSTANTLY IN OUR HEARTS WE SHALL REMAIN STRONG IN THE FACE OF EVERY PERSECUTION

It is only through keeping our eyes "fixed" on Jesus that we shall be enabled to withstand the continual persecutions of the Evil One, and as we come into that place of abiding, these persecutions shall have little or no effect upon us. And nothing that Satan attempts shall be able to sway us to the left or the right. As the revelation of God's Word burns constantly in our hearts, we shall remain strong in the face of every persecution, continuing to walk in love at all cost to ourselves. We can have no "regard" for anything which is apart from Christ for if we do then we shall find that we are not able to keep our eyes fixed steadfastly upon our Lord and thus - if we retain any wilful desire to attach ourselves to the things that are seen rather than the things which are not seen (2 Corinthians 4:18) - we shall, by our own choice, leave that place of "constant" abiding until a deep and thorough repentance is forthcoming. On the other hand if we will only "seek" to abide (regardless of how much revealed knowledge we have) God shall be enabled to sustain us in every way. Indeed, to whom much has been given, much is required and whoever has, to him shall more be given and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him (Luke 12:48) (Mark 4:25).

WALKING IN LOVE CAUSES US TO ABIDE - AND ABIDING CAUSES US TO WALK IN LOVE

As we seek to do the Father's will in ALL things, He will cause us to abide in His love and we shall be carried along BY HIS POWER - in NO WAY seeking to depend upon our own understanding. In every area of our relationship with the Father, our heart motivation is what He looks upon. If He finds a heart which is towards Him He is enabled to continually lead that one on. Walking in love causes

us to abide - and abiding causes us to walk in love. Let us come to the full realization that we can indeed do nothing apart from Christ for unless we "abide" in the Vine we cannot bear fruit for the Kingdom. These things which I have spoken of are but simple and clear revelations of God's Truth but, because of the lofty speculations and exaltations which have raised themselves up above the Word of God, many have "allowed" themselves to be separated from the Vine - and because of this their actions constitute a tearing down of the Church rather than a building up of the Church. The ways of those who are apart from Christ have their "motivation" in the "world" and its ways, whereas those who are one with Christ take as their only source the revealed knowledge of God's Word and all the principles of God's Kingdom found therein.