

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 15:1-7**.
- B. From *The Bumps are What you Climb On* by W. Wiersbe (Ch. 16).
- C. In the wonderful promise of Jn. 15:7 there are three factors involved--abiding, asking, and answering. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."

## I. WE ARE TO ABIDE.

- A. At least a dozen times in Jn. 15, Jesus uses the word abide.
- B. Abiding has two sides to it: we are to abide in Christ and allow the word to abide in us.
- C. We abide (dwell) in X.
  1. John 15:4-5.  
"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. **5** "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."
  2. 1John 1:6-7.  
If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
  3. 1John 2:28.  
And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.
- D. His word abides (dwells) in us.
  1. John 8:31-32.  
Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
  2. 2John v9.  
Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.
  3. Colossians 3:16.  
Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- E. It is tragic to see how many Xians neglect fellowship with the Lord. They rush into each new day without taking time to read the Bible or talk to God. Then they wonder why problems develop and why God doesn't answer their prayers.

## II. WE ARE TO ASK.

- A. The second factor involved in prayer (Jn. 15:7) is asking.  
"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you."
- B. What right do we have to ask Almighty God for anything?
  1. We are children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.
    - a. We are not just "weak human beings."
    - b. We do need persistence as seen in the parables of the friend at midnight (Lk. 11), and the widow (Lk. 18).
    - c. In X, we have access to the Father (Eph. 2:18; 3:11-12; Heb. 4:14-16).  
(**Eph 2:18**) for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.  
(**Eph 3:11,12**) *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.  
(**Heb 4:14-16**) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot

sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. **16** Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

2. God has invited us to pray.

a. In fact, He has commanded us to pray (Mt. 5:44; 1Th. 5:17; Jas. 5:16).

(Mt 5:44) “But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you

(1Th 5:17) pray without ceasing;

(Jas 5:16) Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

b. We cannot succeed in life unless we pray, God encourages us to pray (Mt. 7:7-8).

“Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. **8**

“For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.”

III. **WE ARE TO BE PREPARED FOR THE ANSWER.**

A. The third aspect of prayer (Jn. 15:7) is answering.

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you.”

B. Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of His willingness.

C. Sometimes God does not give us what we ask for because:

1. What we want is not what God wants to give us. We want one good thing and God desires for us to have something else (1Jn. 5:14-15).

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

2. Our Xian character must improve to handle what we have asked for. If God gave us what we wanted we could not handle it properly for His glory (i.e., money, position, power, etc. A young child is not given razor blades because they could not handle them properly).

3. Sometimes we ask amiss. We ask with selfish motives (Jas. 4:4). We cannot manipulate God. You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

4. Sometimes we don't know how to pray for what we need because we don't truly understand our needs (ex.: instead of praying for someone who is bothering us, we need to pray for more understanding and patience). God knows our needs even before we ask (Mt. 6:8).

“Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.”

D. God will do the answering, are we ready to receive the answers He gives?

**CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

A. The essentials of prayer are to know three important things. Prayer works best when we:

1. Abide in X.

2. Ask according to His will.

3. Are prepared for the answer.

B. Bumps and bruises can turn into a blessing through the power of prayer.

C. Are you prepared to abide, ask, and receive the answers to your prayers?

D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.