

Teach Me To Abide...Through Scripture

The Spiritual Discipline of Scripture.

Luke 11:1-4, Various Texts

Series Introduction

Today we continue a set of sermons entitled, **“Teach Me to Abide”**. Each of these messages will focus on a different **spiritual discipline** we see in scripture. The Biblical definition of **abide**, is to “dwell,” “remain,” “be present,” and to “be held and kept.” Abiding addresses our *posture toward Christ* and our *place with Christ*. Spiritual disciplines are crucial because they provide pathways for us to abide in Jesus. As a **faith community** we believe these should be normal characteristics for the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ and so we want to talk about them and encourage one another in them.

“Teach Me to Abide” messages will occur about once every other month. We are giving space between these messages to help us build habits and grow in practice of these spiritual disciplines, not simply gain knowledge about them. Therefore, in the time between messages on these spiritual disciplines we will provide some encouragement and help to **start, build** an intentional pattern, and **uphold** this discipline in your life.

Author and Christ-follower, **Oswald Chambers** said, *“There is no condition of life in which we cannot abide in Jesus. We have to learn to abide in Him wherever we are placed.”*

Sermon Introduction – Abide through Prayer

Luke 11:1-4 - One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

“‘Father,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come.^[a]

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins,

for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.

And lead us not into temptation.’”

Jesus has something to teach us about prayer.

A.C.T.S. Prayer Model (One tool in your prayer toolbox.)

- A holistic approach. Used in a varied form by early church father, Origen.

Adoration

- **What?**
 - Praising God for all that He is, His attributes, His character.
 - **1 Chronicles 29:11-13:** Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.¹² Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.¹³ And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.
 - Adoration is worship. It is affirming and agreeing with who God is.
- **How?**
 - **“God, you are...”**

- Don't keep these praises and adoration only in your quiet time with God. Learn to praise and adore him throughout your day as you recognize His grace and love pour over you.
- The challenge is to speak adoration in difficult times.
- **Why?** Adoration puts a focus on who God is and thus who we are not. It turns our focus off our circumstances and sets our eyes on God.
- **Additional passages:**
 - **Psalm 63:2-4 (card)** – I have seen you the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name, I will lift up my hands.
 - **Revelation 4:8** - And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

Confession

- **What?**
 - Confession of sin is the admission of what we did and the agreement with God that our actions or words were wrong.
 - **Psalm 51:1,10-12** - "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. "
 - As much as God hates our sin, He loves it when we turn to Him, acknowledge our sin, and ask for forgiveness.
 - Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any area of your life that may not be pleasing to Him. You must be completely honest before God. If we knowingly hold on to sin in our lives, we block our communication and fellowship with Him.
- **How?**
 - **"God, I'm sorry..."**
 - Confession cleanses the soul to allow the Holy Spirit to renew us.
- **Why?**
 - Our prayers of confession help us embrace the forgiveness that God offers to us. It leads us to a place of humility and aligns us to the character of Jesus Christ.
 - **"A life of humble confession and repentance characterizes those who are still being made holy."** – Chad Harrington
- **Additional passages:**
 - **1 John 1:9 (card)** - " If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. "
 - **James 5:16** - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Thanksgiving

- **What?**
 - Thanksgiving is a demonstration of your awareness and appreciation for who God is and what He has done, is doing, and will do to uphold His promises.
 - **Psalm 100:4:** " Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! "

- When you give thanks to God it expresses confidence in His plan for you. This will chase fear and discouragement away and raise an expectancy of faith in what God will do in your life.
- **How?**
 - **“Thank you, God, for...”**
 - Direct your prayers of thanksgiving to God throughout your day as you see His provision, protection, and promises.
- **Why?**
 - Our prayers of thanksgiving create an attitude of gratitude. It combats a sinful attitude of entitlement and arrogance.
- **Additional passages:**
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (card)** - "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. "
 - **Colossians 6:2-7:** " Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. "

Supplication

- **What?**
 - Calling upon God in petition to meet your needs and the needs of others in all areas of life including physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of our lives. (Intercession)
 - **Philippians 4:6 (card)** - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
 - The biblical definition of supplication is a form of reverential prayer to God. It is a prayer of humility while seeking God with boldness.
 - Praying scripture during your time of supplication is such a powerful way to pray. Specifically inserting someone's name into a scripture.
 - When you do this you are praying God's words back to Him and you are also praying God's will for that person.
- **How?**
 - **“God, please...”**
 - **Asking in confidence an assurance that God will hear.**
 - **Sometimes it's not our predetermined outcomes that He responds, but being with Him.**
 - **Illustration – Home I grew up in, returning as an adult. (Mom-porch, Dad-basement around the pool table.**
- **Why?** Prayers of supplication teaches us the practice of learning to trust God's power, wisdom, and authority in accordance with His will. Praying for o
- **Additional passages:**
 - **Matthew 6:11** – Give us today our daily bread.
 - **Matthew 7:7-11** - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Learning to abide in prayer...

- **ECC Measurement – Knees Devoted to Prayer**
- **Make prayer a conversation with God.**
 - Sometimes that conversation is in a routine place.
- **Go expectantly.**
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- **The importance of taking your/our next step with Prayer.**
 - What is your next step with Prayer?
 - Start it.
 - Pick it back up.
 - Stay at it. – Be creative.
- **Some encouragement as you abide through scripture:**
 - Set up a daily habit.
 - Commit to the time / Set an appointment with God.
 - A.C.T.S. prayer model challenge. (30 days – pray
 - Perseverance
 - Encouragement from ECC Faith Community
 - Share your progress with one another.

**"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."
Hebrews 4:16.**