

Abide Part 18: One Necessary Thing (2-17-2019)

Review Abide: We started in John 15, learning from Jesus about the Abiding relationship He is inviting us into.

Goal of the Series

Developing a real, personal, and daily relationship with the Holy Spirit so that the default setting in my life is to regularly experience the transforming love of God, and live empowered to give that love away!

Topics we have covered

1) Who is He 2) How to cultivate our relationship 3) What He produces in us 4) Gifts He wants to give us

Today is the Conclusion: We are wrapping up the series by focusing on One thing that is Necessary!

Let's begin by looking at an important conversation between Jesus and His Disciples . . .

Luke 11:1 (ESV)

Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."

Note: There is something missing that His disciples are longing for. They can tell there is something special going on – because He is always going off to pray. They don't quite know how to say it, but what they are craving is the intimacy with God that Jesus has.

Question: What do you want, what do you lack?

They wanted something they were missing, and Jesus gave it to them! He responds to them in 3 ways . . .

1) He gives them Practical Guidance

Jesus begins by teaching them **The Lord's Prayer** (A more complete version can be found in **Mathew 6:9-15**).

Luke 11:2-4 (ESV)

(2) And he said to them, "When you pray, say: "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. (3) Give us each day our daily bread, (4) and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation."

Notes: First He gave them an outline, a practical guide that includes important elements of prayer.

But He didn't stop there – there was something more still needed. . . . It was the secret to prayer, and that was something he couldn't give, he could only point the way!

2) He encourages Persistence – Go after it!

Luke 11:5-8 (ESV)

(5) And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves, (6) for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; (7) and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything'? (8) I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.

Impudence: Often translated or described as persistence, but there is more to it than that. It is the idea of Reckless, Shameless, Audacity in your Persistence.

Example: Our friend Charlie & the blue van!

Luke 11:9-10 (ESV)

(9) And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Notes: He paints a picture of increasing urgency and persistence in our pursuit of God . . .

Ask – a request

Seek – an adventure

Knock – shameless persistence

Question: Have you stopped at one of these 3 places in your pursuit of God?

3) He offers the ultimate Gift

Luke 11:11-13 (ESV)

(11) What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; (12) or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? (13) If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Note: Now, Jesus points to the character of the Giver, and the Gift that is available. All we have to do is ask.

Question: We can ask what Jesus asked - How much more?

Don't be afraid to ask this question! If we aren't careful, Grace can feel too good to be true. So, we dumb it down and minimize & marginalize it.

Let's look at the story that occurs just prior to this request from the disciples to be taught how to pray . . .

Luke 10:38-42 (ESV)

(38) Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. (39) And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. (40) But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." (41) But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, (42) but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Note: Only one thing is necessary – do you believe that?

That's Grace - the Abiding & Empowering Presence of God.

Question: Will we slow our busyness, quiet our minds, and focus our heart's aim on this one thing?

Conclusion: Let's conclude with where we began this series . . .

John Piper – "When you read the New Testament honestly, you can't help but get the impression of a big difference from a lot of contemporary Christian experience. For them the Holy Spirit was a fact of *experience*. For many Christians today it is a fact of *doctrine*."

Closing: The saddest thing that could happen after the completion of this series is to "know" all about the Holy Spirit, and not experience walking with Him in the reality of our day-to-day lives.

Example: Consider the "park bench" scene from Good Will Hunting

3 Questions to Consider (although really its about 1 thing – Seeking for the gift of the Holy Spirit's presence):

- 1) Are you open to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. **Receive** Him – initial realization, invitation, and reception
 - b. **Know** Him – developing relationship, spending time cultivating a friendship with God
 - c. **Follow** Him – repenting, obeying, co-operating
- 2) Are there gifts He has already given you that maybe you haven't really been aware of, or aren't consistently using?
- 3) Are there gifts you have been closed off to?