

Secrets of the Abundant Life (3)

The Secret of Abiding is Obeying

John 15:10

Introduction:

I. In our examination of the "Secrets of the Abundant Life," we have seen thus far...

1. The 📖 secret to living is bearing fruit, for in the very act of bearing fruit we experience the joy, happiness, assurance and peace which constitutes the "abundant life"
2. The secret to bearing fruit is abiding, for as we "abide in Christ" (John 15:5) He provides the strength which enables us to bear fruit (Philippians 4:13).

II. But 📖 what is the secret to abiding in Christ? How can we be sure to have access to the strength that Jesus provides?

Body:

I. 📖 The secret of abiding

A. The secret of abiding is obeying the commands of Jesus...

1. As stated by Jesus...
 - a. By keeping His commands we abide in His love (John 15:10a).
 - b. By keeping His commands we will be His friends (John 15:14).
2. And restated by His beloved disciple, John (1 John 3:24a).

B. The 📖 principle of abiding through obeying...

1. Governed Jesus' relationship with His Father while on earth.
 - a. He kept His Father's commandments, and so abided in His love (John 15:10b).
 - b. Passages which illustrate Jesus' desire to keep His Father's Will (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38).
2. And should 📖 govern our conduct as Christians as well
 - a. We abide in Christ by keeping His commandments (1 John 2:3-6).
 - b. Otherwise we prove ourselves to be liars if we profess to know Him and do not keep His word!
3. And so "The Secret To Abiding Is Obeying." This may surprise some, but the importance of 📖 "obedience" is stressed throughout the Word of God...

II. The importance of obedience

A. As 📖 stressed in the Old Testament...

1. With the nation of Israel
 - a. At their beginning as a nation (Deuteronomy 10:12, 13).
 - b. Later, as the prophets tried to turn them from their apostasy (Isaiah 1:18-20).
2. With the example of King Saul (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
3. As concluded by Solomon in his search for meaning (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

B. As stressed in the New Testament...

1. By Jesus, on several occasions.
 - a. During the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:21-23, 24-27; Luke 6:46).
 - b. In describing His true family (Mark 3:31-35).
 - c. In giving the "Great Commission" (Matthew 28:18-20).
2. By the apostles in their preaching and teaching.
 - a. The apostle Peter (Acts 10:34, 35, 48)
 - b. The apostle Paul (Acts 17:30; Romans 6:17-18)

Conclusion:

- I. One cannot read much of God's Word without realizing that obedience to God's "commands" is essential if we are going to enjoy God's "blessings!"
- II. One verse that expresses this well is Hebrews 5:9, where speaking of Jesus it is said... *"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him"*
- III. Have you obeyed the commands of Christ and His apostles? Consider just a few commands that you must obey if you are going to abide in Christ, and He in you...
 1. Believe on the name of Jesus Christ (1 John 3:23).
 2. Repent of our sins (Acts 17:30).
 3. Be baptized (Matthew 28:18-19).
 4. Grow in the knowledge of Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
 5. Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Hebrews 10:24-25).
 6. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16).
 7. Devote yourself to prayer (Colossians 4:2).
- IV. To those who faithfully obey Jesus are given the comforting words of Revelation 22:14... *"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."*

The secret to living is bearing fruit;
The secret to bearing fruit is abiding;
The secret to abiding is obeying...
Have you obeyed Jesus?