

February 11, 2024
God Abiding in His Children
Reminding the Church Series

Text: Selected Scripture

Introduction: I trust you have been encouraged as I have as you have read John's first letter to the churches of Asia Minor. His message that all sin and the evil system of the world is to be forsaken surely applies to our world in 2024. His message of love for God and for brothers and sisters in Christ is also much needed today.

A key word used by John in this letter is the Greek word *meno* which we translate as *abide*. Abide means to remain or to dwell – other like terms could be continue, stay put, last, or even roost.

Sixteen verses of the 105 use this word nearly two dozen times. Most times John presented the idea of the believer abiding in the Lord, but a few times he teaches the reality of God abiding with His children.

Read **1 John 4:12-16**. Within these five verses we can see God's plan of salvation and growth for His children: God the Father sent His Son Jesus to save people. v. 14 People confess their belief in who Jesus is and what He did for them, and God comes into their lives. v. 15 His presence is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. v. 13 Read also **1 John 3:24; 2:27**.

As we live out love, God is shown to the world. v. 12, 16 God's presence in our life also equips us in our battle against sin. See **1 John 3:9**.

This morning let's strengthen our understanding of God's abiding presence in our lives.

God Abiding in His Children

I. Jesus Promised His Presence. **John 14:23**

In the Upper Room discourse shortly before His death, Jesus taught His disciples that God would dwell in them.

II. Paul Preached His Promise. **Ephesians 3:14-19**

God's presence in the believer's life would bring:

- Strength through the Holy Spirit in the inner man.
- Jesus dwelling in the hearts of the redeemed.
- The fullness of God.

Read also **Romans 8:9-10; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 13:5**.

III. Jesus' Promise Is the Holy Spirit. **John 14:16-17**

Christ lives out His life through us by the power of the Spirit, who lives within our bodies. It is not by means of imitation that we abide in Christ and walk as He walked. No, it is through incarnation: through His Spirit, *Christ lives in me. (Be Real (1 John): Turning from Hypocrisy to Truth, Warren Wiersbe)*

A. Our Helper.

Paracletos ~ Comforter, Counselor, the One alongside of us.

Lyrics 605 ~ *I Am His, and He Is Mine* Verses 1 & 3

B. Our Guide to Truth. **John 16:13a**

C. Our Teacher. **John 14:26**

D. Our Reminder.

E. Our Conviction. **John 16:8**

F. Our Insight into the Future. **John 16:13b**

So What? My Heart ~ Christ's Home by Robert Boyd Munger
Read slightly abridged version with applications.

1 John 3:24 *Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

Questions to Ponder Through the Week
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1. Read 1 John 4:12-16. Several times in these verses John acknowledged two realities ~ God abides in His children and His loving children are abiding in Him. Expand on these two realities and describe what they look like without using the word *abide*.

2. Read John 14:19-24. How might have the disciples been comforted by Jesus' words? In what ways does obedience translate into love for God? Define obedience – what are some synonyms of obedience.

3. Read Ephesians 3:14-19. What did Paul mean when he described being strengthened *in the inner man*? Can Christ really dwell in our *hearts*? What does it feel like to be filled with the *fullness of God*?

4. Read John 14:16-18, 25-27; 16:7-15. List five things Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit. How do each of these teachings impact your faith?

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

5. You'll find over 9000 results in less than 13 seconds if you search for articles on the *Holy Spirit* at gotQuestions.org. Try it and spend some time reading about the third member of the Godhead.

Sermon Topic for February 18:

Abiding – Part 2 1 John

Read John's first letter one more time. Circle every time you find the word *abide* or a variation of it. Paraphrase how these verses should instruct the way you live. Are there any changes you need to make?