

August 19, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

John 15:7 *If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. (NIV)*

This is truly one of the most important scriptures about abiding in Christ, and yet it is many times misunderstood and taken out of context. But seen in its contextual position, Jesus is reminding us about our position in Him. This is not some profit-seeking promise. This is a statement of provision. And James reminds us in **James 1:6** *But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (NIV)* This position is in Him. That means in His mind and in His heart. You cannot be there unless you are continually walking in Him and obeying Him. Now we all know that this is impossible on our own. But when we live in a constant reminding of whose we are, it allows us to stay focused on the plans that He has for us. Did you know that the LORD has every single day set out for you? He has a plan for this very day.

Now we move to ‘asking whatever you wish.’ Let me be very clear. God is not our ‘genie’ that we can call upon to fulfill our wishes. Because of our selfish nature, we tend to only see things from our perspective instead of His. That why when we see this phrase, we think it is carte blanch and we can get whatever we want. Here is the problem. It is not what we want from a selfish point of view. It is what He wants. When we are living and breathing in Him, we will want the same things that He wants. His desires become our desires. His thoughts become our thoughts. His ways are our ways. It reminds me of the old song, ‘*Let Others See Jesus In You.*’ So let us seek Him first and His righteousness, and then all the other things will be added to us as well. We will be remaining in Him. Walking in Him. Living in Him. And loving like Him. That is where I want to be - in His presence.

Dear LORD, to abide in you is difficult and sometimes it hurts. It causes us to say no to the things of this world and yes to You, but the outcome is so much better. We can know that Your heart and Your mind is now leading us and guiding us. There is no better place that we can be. In Jesus Name, Amen