

August 30, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

1 John 2:28 *And now, dear children, continue in Him, so that when He appears we may be confident and unashamed before Him at His coming. (NIV)*

This is a beautiful reminder to us all to ‘stay’ in Him. The Greek word here is **menete** which means to not only come into His presence, but to also stay in His presence and choose not to leave. The LORD will never make us stay. He invites us, He calls us, He beckons us to come and stay, but we still have a choice on whether we will or not. Now you might be thinking that you would never want to leave His presence, and yet we do many times when our selfish desires pull us away and we give into the temptations of the flesh and the pull of the world around us. That is why the writer of Hebrews makes this exhortation in **Heb. 12:1-3** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him Who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (NIV)*

Jesus will be coming back very soon. When He appears and we are raptured, we will be standing in His presence and will never leave. Let’s make sure when this happens, we will stand unashamed before Him because we have been living in Him. Staying in His presence and enjoying the fellowship of the Spirit. Unashamed because we threw off the things that kept us away from ‘staying’ in Him. How can we do this? One day at a time. One hour at a time. One moment at a time. Live in the presence, not in the past. The past has no hold on you because all of your sins have been paid for by the blood of the Lamb.

Dear LORD, I want to stay in Your presence continually today. Help me not to give into my selfish desire, but to follow Your Spirit’s promptings all day today. In Jesus Name, Amen