ASK WHATEVER YOU WILL



"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you.

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples."

John 15

This promise is the climax of Jesus' "Vine and Branches" teaching.

If the branch sticks to the Vine,

It will be nourished.

It will bear fruit.

And its prayers will move mountains.

One condition:

"If you abide in me and my words abide in you."



Not.....

"If you're saved."

"If you're doctrinally correct."

"If you've lived by Christian principles."

"If you're Spirit-filled."

"If you're sufficiently righteous."

Just...

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you."

How did I get to be a branch?

Jesus made me a branch.

He called me by name.

He put his hand on me and said, "You belong to me."

"You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit."

John 15



Now that Jesus has made me his branch, it's up to me to abide in him.

To stay connected.

To do what he tells me to do.

If I stay connected, I will bear fruit.

And because I am praying with the mind of Christ, the Father will answer my prayers.

"Ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you."

"Sounds great, Lord, but it doesn't seem to work for me. My prayers get lost on the way up."

"Keep on praying.

And keep on abiding in me, until my words have become your life."

Keep on praying.

The only way we learn to pray is to pray.

How can the Spirit of God teach us to pray unless we keep praying?

And he told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart....

....And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them?

Luke 18

Pray alone in a room with the door shut.

Pray when you wake in the middle of the night.

Pray while you're walking down the street.

Pray while you're washing those windows.

Pray in spite of your doubts.



Keep on praying.

Keep abiding in me until my words become your life.

Listen to the Master as he speaks through the four gospels.

Listen to the Spirit when he tells you to give up that grudge.

Listen to the unspoken cries of the wounded souls that God sends into your life.

<u>Abide</u>

Abiding in the Vine is a conscious act.

A daily discipline.

A habit.

A refuge.

- A source of strength.
- A fountain of wisdom.

Until the words of the Lord become your life.

Which they will!



"It is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you---they are Spirit, and they are Life."

John 6

Praying with the mind of Christ.

"Lord Jesus, I want to relinquish my mind for yours.

I want to yield my will to yours

so I can pray in your Name.

And in your name bring heaven into these lives I lift before your throne!"



Prayer: Holy Father, we thank you for calling us to you, for choosing us, for giving us what we ask. Oh that we would take this precious gift and make it ours. This is what we ask...that we would desire to abide in you with all we have. That we would abide in you until your words become our life, until taking them into our hearts and living them is more natural than breathing. That we would continually seek you in prayer, and we would pray and keep on praying. And yes Lord, that would yield to you, to pray in your name and that through us heaven would come into the lives of many, and we become the fruit you call us to be.

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