

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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ABIDE In The VINE

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Introduction

The same information that is in this book is also in three Mini-Books, titled “The VINE” Parts One, Two, and Three. These are available by downloading from our Web sites, listed on the title page of this book.

It is very important that Christians understand what Jesus was talking about in the Gospel of John, Chapter fifteen. If we will study everything that Jesus said in John 15:1-8, we will have a much better understanding of what God expects of Christians.

Christians are not in this world to do their own will of the flesh. Christians are here in this world to do the will of God. Of our own ability, we cannot do the will of God in our lives. Therefore, in John 15:1-8, Jesus is teaching us how to do the will of God in our lives.

In John 15:1,2, Jesus said, **“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman...Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.”** What is Jesus saying to Christians today according to John 15:1-8?

First we must understand how God teaches His Children. God does not teach us according to the world’s system, which operates by the knowledge of good and evil.

When Adam ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, sin and death came upon all mankind. This sin and death operates by the knowledge of good and evil, which is contrary to the way God operates. (Gen. 2:17; 3:6:17; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:22).

The world operates by the five senses, comparing good to evil. God does not operate by the five senses. God operates by His Word, empowered by the Holy Spirit. God sends His Word and the Holy Spirit causes it to manifest.

In sending His Word, God uses figurative speaking, types and shadows, symbolic language, etc. to help us to understand the spiritual realm.

In Romans 5:12 it says, **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** In Romans 5:17, it says, **“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”** In 1 Corinthians 15:21,22, it says, **“For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead...For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”**

Is it possible for Christians to lose their salvation? Some believe in a doctrine of “once saved, always saved.” Does that agree with what Jesus is telling us in John 15:1-8? Or, is our eternal life in heaven dependent upon what we do after we are born again into the body of Christ?

Consider what happened to Adam and Eve? Did they do the will of God or the will of Satan, when they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, mankind became as slaves to the Devil.

Was it God’s will that mankind would become slaves to the Devil? Or, was it God’s will that mankind would eat of the tree of life and live forever? Secondly, how often must we eat of the tree of life to live forever? Is the doctrine of “once saved, always saved” a true teaching? We need wisdom from the written Word of God to know the truth.

There seems to be an important message in John 15:1-8 for Christians to understand. We need, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of what God desires and expects of Christians today.

One other thing of importance for Christians is understanding the written Word of God. In understanding the written Word, we need to know that neither the Old Testament nor the New Testament were written in English. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and Chaldees. The New Testament was written in Greek. The English language does not always have equivalent words for many Hebrew and Greek words.

Therefore, in Genesis 2:7, when we see certain Hebrew words like “chay” (living) and “nephesh” (soul), it does not give us a clear understanding of what it means by **“man became a living soul.”** It says in Genesis 2:7, **“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living (chay) soul (nephesh).** The Hebrew word “chay” means “alive, living.” But the Hebrew word “nephesh” means “soul; breathing creature.” All animals, fowl, and fish are also breathing creatures. They all need air to breathe in order to live. That does not help us to understand that man was created “a living soul.”

In this case we need to go over into the New Testament in 1 Corinthians 15:45, where it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living (zao) soul (psuche); the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”** In the Greek the word “psuche,” is the English word “psyche.” Psyche in English means “the human soul; the mind, will, intellect, and emotions.” That explains the Hebrew word “nephesh” meaning “soul; a breathing creature.”

In both the Hebrew and the Greek it is important that we understand what God is telling us in His written Word. Man was created “a living soul,” not “a living spirit” as some teach. Our mind, will, and emotions operate from our soul, not from our spirit as some teach.

When we are talking about the Word of God, we also need the Hebrew and Greek to know what God is telling us. The English language does not have any equivalent words for many of the Hebrew and Greek words. Some of the Greek words, such as “logos” and “rhema,” do not have any English words that are the same in meaning. Therefore, in reading the English translations of the Bible we may not understand what God is saying to us as Christians.

In the Greek, the word “logos” means, “the written Word, that was first spoken by a living voice.” It also means that the written Word, which was once spoken by a living voice is still alive, and powerful, and able to bring life to anything. As an example in Hebrews 4:12 it says, **“For the word (logos) of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”** The Word (logos) is alive, and gives life in the spiritual realm. The “logos” gives us the ability to operate in the spiritual realm, and have power over the works of the Devil. The “logos” goes beyond the natural realm, even to the dividing of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Then in Hebrews 4:13, it says, **“Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.”** Jesus always knows the thoughts and intents of the hearts of everyone. Jesus is God with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, therefore, all three know the thoughts and intents of the hearts of everyone all the time.

In John 1:1 it says, **“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God.”** This is speaking of Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning. Jesus was alive in the realm of the Spirit from the beginning. Jesus is still alive in the realm of the Spirit today, and will always be forever

(Heb. 13:8). Therefore, Jesus is the “logos,” and remains the “logos” forever.

Besides the Greek word “logos” there is also the Greek word “rhema.” The Greek word “rhema” means, “when the Word (logos) of God becomes a revelation to someone from God.” It is “when the “logos” becomes alive and manifests in our lives.”

The Word (rhema) produces “faith.” In Romans 10:17 it says “**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.**” We hear the “logos” most of the time when we speak the Word of God or hear the Word of God. But, for the “logos” to manifest in faith, it must become “rhema” to us. When the Word of God becomes “rhema” it becomes alive in us. The “rhema” goes from our mind into our heart. It is when we believe the Word (rhema) in our heart, God’s Word does for us whatsoever we believe and it manifests (comes to pass).

The English Bibles translate both of the Greek words “logos” and “rhema” to “word.” That does not help us, being that it does not tell us what it truly says in the Greek. Therefore, we need to understand what it says in the Greek, in order to understand what the Word of God is saying.

It is unfortunate that there are so many Christians today who have never used the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek words to understand the Scriptures. Therefore by using only English words in their Bibles today, they do not understand what God is telling us. Thereby, they are defeated in their lives and do not experience the power of God working in them and through them.

Many times the Truth of the Word of God is only seen in the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek text of the Scriptures. Therefore, we need the Hebrew, Chaldees, and Greek words to understand the Scriptures.

Before we continue in this book, we need to include “a brief meaning” of the following Greek words “logos, rhema, zoe, psuche, agape, phileo, eido, ginosko.”

“Logos”= (1). The living Word of God (Heb. 4:12). (2). The living spoken word spoken by a living voice (John 15:3). (3). The written word, which was first spoken by a living voice (John 1:1).

“rhema”= (1). An utterance (John 6:63). (2). A revelation of the Word by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 10:17). (3). Words spoken from the heart, not the mind (Matt. 12:36).

“Zoe”= (1). Spiritual life (John 1:4). (2). The very life of God (John 5:26).

“psuche”= (1). The soul (mind, intellect, will, and emotions) (Heb. 10:38). (2). The natural life of mankind in the flesh (John 10:11).

“agape/agapao”= (1). The love of God (1 John 4:8). (2). God’s love in man (John 15:10).

“Phileo”= (1). The highest form of human love (John 21:15).

“Eido”= (1). To know from knowledge (John 8:37).

“Ginosko”= (1). Know “absolutely” (John 8:55). (2) Know by experience (Matt. 7:23).

The Vine & The Branches

In John 15:1, Jesus is using symbolic, and figurative language, in saying, “**I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.**” A vine is similar to a tree. It begins with a seed that is planted in the ground. That seed dies of itself, while the heart of the seed sprouts and takes root in the ground. Therefore, the beginning of the life of the vine is in the seed. As it grows it gets its source of food to grow from the roots, which start to grow in the ground. Therefore, the source of the growth of the seed begins in the heart of the seed and then takes root in the ground. The vine is always dependent upon its roots to keep it alive. If the roots of the vine are cut off, the vine will die.

Once the vine starts to mature, the branches start to grow on the vine. As the branches grow, leaves start to grow on the branches. Then the fruit begins to grow on the branches.

As the fruit grows, it matures and becomes exactly the same as the fruit that the seed came from. Apples are apples, pears are pears, etc. In the fruit there are new seeds. These seeds are exactly the same as the seed that was planted and began the life of the vine in the beginning. In the total process, seeds reproduce new seeds exactly identical to the seed that was first planted.

In John 15:1, Jesus said, **“I am the true vine...”** How did Jesus get to be the true vine?

In John 5:26, Jesus said, **“For as the Father hath life (zoe) in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life (zoe) in himself.”** In John 10:10, Jesus said, **“...I am come that they might have life (zoe), and that they might have it more abundantly.”** The Greek word “zoe” is speaking of the very life of God. It is God’s life manifest in the lives of all those who are born again of the Word of God and the Spirit of God.

John 1:1,2, says, **“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God...The same was in the beginning with God.”** This is speaking of Jesus, Who was with the Father from the beginning. Jesus had the same life (zoe) in Him that was in God the Father.

In 1 Peter 1:23, it says, **“Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word (logos) of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”** Jesus was the Word (logos) of God before He came into this world, “born of the Holy Spirit and a virgin woman by the name of Mary.” Therefore, Jesus was **“the Seed”** of all who are, **“born of the Spirit”** (John 3:6). When the Holy Spirit came upon Mary, she became the human mother of the living Word (logos) of God.

In John 12:23,24, it says, **“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.”**

The Seed had to die, before it could become the Vine (which Jesus was speaking of in John 15:1). When Jesus rose again from the dead, He became **“the firstborn from the dead”** (Rom. 8:29). He also became the head of the Body of Christ, which is the Church (Col. 1:18).

In Jesus’ resurrection from the dead, He became the Vine that He is speaking of in John 15:1. The Vine gets its life from the roots (God the Father). The branches grow on the Vine (in Christ Jesus). In the new birth, Christians became the branches that Jesus is speaking of in John 15:5.

When Jesus said, **“the Father is the husbandman,”** Jesus was speaking of two things, God the Father who is the source of the Vine (Jesus) and the life (zoe-spiritual life) of the Vine. The life of the vine comes from the source of the vine which is first in the seed and then in the roots.

Like a tree, the vine has an inner core called the heart of the vine, in which there is sap. This life sustaining liquid flows from the roots through the vine, through the branches into the leaves and the fruit which grows on the branches. It is the same life (zoe) that is in the root that flows through the Vine, through the branches, into the fruit, that produces the fruit on the branches.

The life of the vine is first dependent upon the roots where the source of the vine has its beginning. The life of the vine is also dependent upon “what happens to the vine as it grows.” If it lacks food, it will die. If it is destroyed by weather, or other things in the world, it will also die. If the owner of the vine is not satisfied with the vine, he will do something about it. He may prune it, or he may even cut it down and destroy it.

There is an important message in what Jesus was revealing to Christians in John 15:1-8. Let

us first look at all eight verses.

- 1) **I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.**
- 2) **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.**
- 3) **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.**
- 4) **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.**
- 5) **I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**
- 6) **If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**
- 7) **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**
- 8) **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

In John 15:1, why is Jesus the True Vine? Jesus is the beginning of a new creation of mankind, called “the body of Christ,” which is in the spiritual realm (the spirit of Christ). Adam was the beginning of mankind in the natural realm (the flesh of Adam). Jesus Christ is the beginning of mankind in the Spirit.

In 1 Corinthians 15:45-48 it says, **“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit...Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven...As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.”**

In Romans 8:9, it says, **“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”** In 2 Corinthians 5:17 it says, **“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”**

Christians are no longer in Adam. Christians are in Christ. This is a new beginning, a new life “in the Spirit of Christ.”

Now, we need to understand, what it means by being in Christ. There are some responsibilities that go along with the new birth into the body of Christ. What are our responsibilities as members of Christ’s body here on earth?

In John 15:1-8, Jesus is revealing to us some of our responsibilities as Christians in the body of Christ. Before, starting with John 15:1, we need to understand that we did not become born again of our own will. Jesus said in John 6:44, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”** It was not our plan and purpose to become born again into the Body of Christ.

Ephesians 1:4 says, **“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”** It wasn’t our idea. It was God’s plan for us from the foundation of the world. Included in God’s plan was **“...that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”** There seems to be more to the new birth than just becoming born again.

This seems to be what Jesus is telling us in John 15:1-8. As Children of God in Christ Jesus,

we have responsibilities. It is our responsibility to bare fruit. What kind of fruit is Jesus speaking of? Is it witnessing to unbelievers that they say a sinner's prayer? Or, is it something "more important," that many Christians have not seen in John 15:1-8?

In John 15:2, Jesus said, **"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."** What is the fruit that we must bare?

If Jesus is the True Vine, we must bare the same fruit that Jesus bore. The fruit must be identical to the fruit that Jesus bore. What is this fruit?

In Galatians 5:22,23, it says, **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith...Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** The fruit that Christians must bare includes all of **"...the fruit of the Spirit."**

Why do we say, the fruit of the Spirit? Because the fruit of the Spirit is the fruit that comes from the Spirit of God, and is given to us in the new birth. It is not our fruit, but rather the fruit of the Spirit of God. This fruit has its beginning in God (in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit). The image of God is in the fruit of the Spirit. When we see God, we see the image of God (in the fruit of the Spirit). Remember, Jesus said in Matthew 7:16-20, **"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?...Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit...A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit...Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire...Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them."**

The first fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22 is "love" (agape). Without the love (agape) of God we cannot do anything (John 15:4,5). The love (agape) of God is the opposite of the fruit of Satan, the Devil. Satan does not have any love (agape).

If we study the use of the Greek word "agape, or agapao" it pertains only to the LOVE of God. It is not speaking of "phileo" (love), which is human love, such as a husband has for his wife, or a mother has for her children. In 1 John 4:8, it says, **"He that loveth (agapao) not knoweth not God; for God is love (agape)."** God the Father is Love (agape). God the Son is Love (agape). Therefore, the children of God must also be Love (agape). In 1 John 4:17, it says, **"Herein is our love (agape) made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."**

When the fruit of Love (agape) is **"perfected"** in us, all of the other fruit of the Spirit will manifest in our lives. Then we will be like Jesus and God the Father, living and walking in Love (agape). To understand what Love (agape) includes, we can go to 1 Corinthians, 13:4-8 and see what it says. It says, **"Love (agape) suffers long and is kind; love (agape) does not envy; love (agape) does not parade itself, is not puffed up...does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil...does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things...Love (agape) never fails..."** (NKJV).

Love (agape) is the first one of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22. Then as we go on down, "faith" is also one of the fruit of the Spirit. Why is Love (agape) and faith (pistis) so important? If we go to Galatians 5:6, it says, **"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith (pistis) which worketh by love (agape)."**

Then when we look at Roman 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38, they all tell us that **"...the just shall live by faith (pistis)."** If it takes love (agape) for faith (pistis) to work, then we

need the fruit of the Spirit actively working in our lives in order for us to “live by faith” (pistis).

How can Christians bare fruit, if they are not walking in love and living by faith? It seems that it is not possible for Christians to bare fruit without these two “fruit of the Spirit” operating in their lives.

In John 15:3, Jesus said, **“Now ye are clean through the word (logos) which I have spoken unto you.”** The “logos” is “the living Word of God” that will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. How does the written Word (logos) cleanse us and make us clean? It brings us to a position in our lives that we become doers of the Word (logos), not just hearers only. In James 1:22, it says, **“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”** If we do not become doers of the Word (logos), we will deceive ourselves.

Yet, we must understand, the “logos” is not effective in our lives until it becomes “rhema” in our hearts. Jesus was speaking directly to those disciples at that time, when He made that statement in John 15:3. When the “logos” becomes “rhema” in our hearts then we will become clean from our sins.

There is more to it than what some have thought. Therefore, we must continue on in John 15:4, where it says, **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.”**

How do we abide in Jesus? Jesus is the Word (logos) of God. In John 1:1-3, it tells us, **“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God...The same was in the beginning with God...All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”**

How do we abide in Jesus? We abide in the Word (logos) of God. The “logos” is the written Word of God that we have in our Bibles. The more time we spend abiding in the written Word (logos) the more we will become like Jesus.

Jesus spent much of His time already from a child abiding in the written Word of God. At the age of twelve years old, in Luke 2:46,47, it says, **“And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions...And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.”** In Luke 2:52, it says, **“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”**

How do we abide in Jesus? We abide in the written Word (logos). The more time we spend in the written Word the more we will be taught by the Holy Spirit to know the Truth, and the Truth will set us free of all things that hinder our relationship and fellowship with God. In John 8:31,32, Jesus said, **“...If ye continue in my word (logos), then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

The written Word (logos) of God was the very life (zoe) of Jesus. Jesus lived by the “zoe” (life) of God which was in the Word (logos) of God. As Christians, that is the plan of God for our lives. That we live by the very life (zoe) of God which is in the Word (logos) of God.

This is very important to understand. It is not simply, “once saved always saved.” Jesus is speaking of us abiding in the Word (logos) of God daily. That is, continually abiding in the written Word of God. The fruit of the Spirit must be alive in us daily, not just once when we were first born again.

In John 15:5, Jesus said, **“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and**

I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” We cannot produce the fruit that God expects of us unless the Word (logos) continues to live, and remains alive in us. It is not a one time situation. It is a continuous abiding in the Word (logos) of God. When the Word (logos) continues to remain in us, the Word (rhema) will manifest. When the Word (rhema) manifests we will bring forth more fruit.

Therefore, in John 15:6, Jesus said, **“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”** If we stop abiding in the Word (logos), we will not have any (rhema), and therefore, we will not experience the manifestation of the Word (logos) in our lives. There will not be any “faith” produced by the Word (rhema). When we are no longer producing the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, God is not pleased with us. We will no longer be living by faith. In Hebrews 10:38, it says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”**

As Children of God, we are expected to grow and mature into “sons of God,” doing the works that Jesus did, the same way Jesus did the works He did.

The good part is in John 15:7, where it says, **“If ye abide in me, and my words (rhema) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** It is important to know that Jesus is not only talking about the “logos” abiding in us, but also the “rhema” abiding in us. It is the “rhema” that manifests the works of God in our lives. Not just the “logos.” Yet, we cannot have “rhema” without the “logos.”

The “logos” is the seed of the “rhema.” Without the “logos” we cannot have “rhema.” We must abide in the Word (logos) to get the Word (rhema), to activate our faith. Our faith becomes alive by the “rhema.” All nine of the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) need the “logos” to manifest.

Looking again at John 15:7, it says, **“If ye abide in me, and my words (rhema) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** When the “rhema” abides in us, we have the faith that is spoken of in Hebrews 11:6, where it says, **“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”** With the faith that God desires of us, we can ask anything of God and He will do it for us. This faith comes by **“diligently”** seeking God in His Word (logos).

We want to encourage every Christian to abide in the Word (logos) and get the Word (rhema) actively operating in their lives. God has great plans for those who will abide in His Word, and His Word will abide in them. There is no greater reward than to inherit eternal life in heaven. Do not let the world or the things of this world become more important to you than abiding in the Word of God.

John 15:3

In John 15:3, Jesus said to His disciples, **“Now ye are clean through the word (logos) which I have spoken unto you.”** It seems that most of those studying this verse of Scripture have not seen what Jesus was saying to His disciples.

All the way from John 13:30 through John 18:1, Jesus was only talking to “eleven” of His disciples. Judas Iscariot left Jesus and His disciples in John 13:30, and returned with the **“...band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees...”** in John 18:3.

Therefore, when Jesus was alone with eleven of His disciples, He said to them, **“Now ye are clean through the word (logos) which I have spoken unto you”** (John 15:3).

Why is it important to understand that Judas Iscariot was not with the other eleven when Jesus made that statement in John 15:3? If you will notice in John 13:5-10, Jesus washed all twelve of His disciple’s feet, including the feet of Judas Iscariot. But, when Jesus finished washing all twelve of His disciples feet, Jesus told them that not all twelve of them were clean (John 13:10-12).

Judas Iscariot was one of Jesus’ twelve chosen disciples. God the Father gave Jesus all twelve of Jesus’ disciples (John 17:6,9,10,12). Jesus kept all of them from the Devil, except one (Judas Iscariot), that the Scriptures might be fulfilled (John 17:12).

Judas Iscariot was not clean through the words (logos) that Jesus spoke to His other eleven disciples. There was a reason why Judas Iscariot was not clean.

It is very important that Christians understand what Jesus is telling us in John 15:1-8. Christians who follow the example of Judas Iscariot, could maybe end up where Judas Iscariot ended up. Study and find out what happened to Judas Iscariot after he betrayed Jesus.

Let us first look at what Jesus is telling us in John 15:3. How can we become “clean” through the Word “logos” that Jesus was speaking to His eleven disciples? We must pay attention to every word (logos) that Jesus spoke to us in the Gospels.

First we need to understand the difference between the Greek words “logos and rhema.” The “logos” is “the living, spoken, written Word of God.” Jesus is the “logos,” and many of the words He has spoken to us in our Bibles are “logos,” the written Word. The “logos” has the ability to give us eternal life (zoe), and maintain our eternal life forever. But, the “logos” will not benefit us until it becomes “rhema” in our heart. It is the “rhema” that changes our lives.

As an example, in Matthew 4:4, it says, **“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rheam) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”** In this, Jesus said that it is the Word (rhema) that we must live by, not the “logos.” Jesus used the Word (logos) to defeat the Devil in Matthew 4:1-11. Jesus quoted the Word (logos) to the Devil every time the Devil quoted the Word (logos) to Jesus. The Devil had the Word (logos) of God, but the Devil did not have the Word (rhema), which comes from the Word (logos).

Christians cannot live only by the “logos.” Christians must live by the “rhema.” We cannot get the “rhema” without first getting the “logos.”

In John 15:3, how did the eleven disciples become clean by the Word (logos), that Jesus spoke to them? They believed the Word (logos), and when they believed the Word (logos) in their heart it became “rhema.” When the “logos” becomes “rhema” it manifests in our lives. The Word (logos) that Jesus spoke to His disciples did not become “rhema” to Judas Iscariot, because Judas did not “believe” the Word (logos) that Jesus spoke to His twelve disciples all the time they were

with Him.

Judas was like a lot of Christians today. Judas had more faith in money than He had in the power of the Word (logos) of God. Until Christians get the Word (logos) of God into their minds, it will not become (rhema) in their heart. It is what we believe in our heart that gives us faith.

Faith works by love (agape) (Gal. 5:6). With faith in our hearts, nothing is impossible for those who believe. Jesus said in Mark 9:23, “**...If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**”

Let us sum it up this way: In Romans 10:17 it says, “**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.**” To get the “rhema” we need the “logos.”

Once we have the “logos” in our mind, we can preach the “rhema” from our heart. That is what the Apostle Paul was writing about in Romans 10:14-16. If no one preaches the Word (rhema), how will anyone get the Word (rhema), that produces faith? No one can believe the Gospel if they do not hear the Gospel spoken to them. It is by the hearing of the Gospel preached to them that they receive the “rhema” and they believe in their heart. When they believe in their heart, faith manifests. As they receive the Word (rhema), in their heart it manifests in faith.

It does not need to be an audible voice speaking the Word (logos). It can be the written Word (logos) that we read. Yet, when the “rhema” is spoken, it produces faith. In John 6:63, Jesus said, “**It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words (rhema) that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life (zoe).**”

It is by the Word (logos) becoming (rhema) that faith comes to those who believe. In Hebrews 10:38, it is written, “**Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**” It is also written in Galatians 5:6 that faith works by love (agape).

With this combination of the Word “logos,” Word “rhema,” love “agape,” and faith “pistis,” Christians can live forever. These are the main elements (God’s Word, God’s love, and faith). These produce the revelation of God and His Word that brings eternal life and maintains eternal life forever.

In John 15:3, Jesus said to His disciples, “**Now ye are clean through the word (logos) which I have spoken unto you.**” Now let us see how the eleven disciples became “clean” through the Word (logos) that Jesus had spoken to them.

These disciples heard every word (logos) that Jesus spoke to them. When they obeyed the words (logos) that Jesus told them, they saw the results. In other words, when they did what Jesus told them to do, they had the same results that Jesus had.

Notice this: What Jesus told them to do did not always agree with their minds, their thinking. What they thought was not what Jesus told them to do. Over and over, Jesus told His disciples to do things that did not agree with their thoughts. But, when they did what Jesus told them to do it worked for them just as it worked for Jesus.

First, Jesus called His disciples to come and follow Him. In Matthew 4:18, Jesus was talking to Simon Peter and Andrew (Peter’s brother). It says in Matthew 4:19, “**And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.**” When Jesus called His disciples, He asked them to follow Him.

All the time during the remaining years of Jesus’ life here on earth, His eleven disciples followed Jesus wherever He went. They heard what Jesus said. They saw what Jesus did. Jesus

taught them by what He said and what He did.

These disciples were living in the same world we live in today. The only difference between them and us, is that Jesus was there with them in a physical body of flesh and bones. Jesus walked with them and talked with them.

Today, for born again Christians, Jesus walks with us and talks with us also. Only, we cannot see Jesus with our natural eyes, and we do not hear Jesus with our natural ears. But, if we will do what Jesus tells us to do (as His disciples did), we can do the same works that Jesus's disciples did, and even greater works than Jesus did.

In John 14:12, Jesus said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.”** In Mark 16:17,18, Jesus said, **“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”**

Just as an example; Jesus sent His disciples out in Luke, Chapters nine and ten. In Luke 10:17 it says, **“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.”** If Christians today would do what those disciples did, the devils would be subject to them through Jesus' name also. The only reason that Christians today are not casting out more devils, is because they are not doing what Jesus disciples were doing when they followed Jesus wherever He went.

As those disciples followed Jesus, they heard everything Jesus said, and they saw everything Jesus did. It took them years to learn what Jesus was teaching them. But, they did learn by following Jesus and seeing and hearing everything that Jesus said and did.

Operating in the spiritual realm is a lot different from operating in the natural physical realm. In the spiritual realm, we must live and operate by the Word (logos\rhema) of God. Not by what we see, hear, smell, taste, or feel. Not by what people tell us or teach us. But, only by the Word (logos\rhema) of God within us.

We become **“clean”** by the Word (logos) of God that we first receive by hearing or studying the written Word (logos) of God. As we believe the Word (logos) it will change our thinking to agree with the Word (logos) of God. When we agree with the Word (logos) of God in our heart, not just in our mind, we will become like Jesus. Jesus will manifest in our lives just as He manifested in the lives of those who believed Him in the Gospels. Just like those who believed the Words (logos) of Jesus in the Book of Acts.

Look at what it says in Acts 5:14-16, **“And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women...Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them...There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.”**

Peter had the Word (logos) in his mind, and it became “rhema” in his heart. When the religious leaders came against Peter and John for preaching the Gospel, in Acts 5:29 it says, **“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”**

Christians have a choice when it comes to obeying God, and obeying the LORD. Peter

continued to obey the LORD.

When there were situations among the believers that needed to be settled, the apostles said in Acts 6:3,4, **“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business...But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.”**

Someone needs to work with those who are babes in Christ, where there is still envying, and strife, and divisions. These things will be among babes in Christ. But, if we want to bare fruit for the LORD, we must continue in the Word (logos) and prayer.

The more time we spend in the Word (logos) and prayer, the more we will accomplish for the Kingdom of God. Look at what it says about Peter in Acts 9:32-34, **“And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda...And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy...And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.”** Peter had the Word (logos) in him. When the “logos” becomes “rhema” signs and wonders will follow.

Then in Acts 9:36-41, it tells us, **“Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did...And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber...And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them...Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them...But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up...And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.”**

Peter and many of Jesus’ disciples continued in the Word (logos) and prayer. The eleven Apostles had spent about three years following Jesus, listening to the words (logos) Jesus was speaking. As they obeyed the Word (logos) signs and wonders followed them.

These signs and wonders did not stop once Jesus went to be with God the Father. They continued to follow the disciples wherever they went. These disciples and apostles kept spending time in the Word (logos), and they did the same works that Jesus did when they were with Him before He went to the Cross for us.

These same signs will follow Christians today, if they will abide in the Vine, as Jesus taught us in John 15:1-9.

What is the first thing we must believe to become **“clean through the Word (logos)”** that Jesus spoke in the Gospels? We must believe the Gospel. The Gospel is the Good News of “who Jesus truly is, and what Jesus truly did for us.”

It starts with believing who Jesus truly is? We must believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God, who came into this world to pay the price for all our sins and iniquities with His pure Blood, that He shed on the Cross for us. Until we believe the Gospel concerning the Blood of Jesus, we will never be cleansed by the Blood. We will be forever living by the knowledge of good and evil that

keeps us from walking with God and hearing His voice.

The disciples of Jesus walked with Jesus and heard His voice. As they walked with Jesus and heard His voice, they did what He told them to do. By doing what Jesus told them, they became **“clean by the Word (logos)”** Jesus spoke to them. They became clean by being doers of the Word (logos) and not just hearers only.

Remember, Judas Iscariot also walked with Jesus and heard His voice. But, the desire of Judas Iscariot’s heart was not right with God. Judas Iscariot trusted in money, rather than in the Word (logos) of God. The work we do in the ministry must not be based upon how much money we have or how much money we can raise to do the work of the ministry. That is getting very close to what Judas Iscariot was doing.

Judas held the money, and used some of it for himself. That made him a thief, not a believer in the Word (logos) that Jesus was speaking and teaching His disciples.

The difference is what we believe? Do we believe that money will enable us to do the work of the ministry? Or, do we believe that God can do the work of the ministry through us even if there is no money involved?

Jesus did not trust in money when there was a need for food to feed four thousand and five thousand men plus women and children. Jesus believed that when He prayed the Word (logos) of God, God the Father would multiply the fish and bread. Jesus knew when He prayed, that God the Father would answer His prayer.

That is one of the main principles of God, knowing that when we pray God will answer our prayer. That is what Jesus was teaching His disciples. Always trust in God the Father to supply all our needs.

Jesus also taught that we should ask God the Father, and He will do whatsoever we ask, if we have faith to believe His Word (logos). In John 16:23,24, Jesus said, **“And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you...It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”** In John 15:7, Jesus said, **“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”**

When Jesus sent His disciples out in Matthew 10 and Luke 9 and 10, He did not tell them to “try to do” what He told them to do. Trying is not faith. Doing is faith.

Therefore, Jesus said in Matthew 10:7-10, **“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand...Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give...Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses...Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.”**

When Christians try to do these things, it does not work. But, when Christians do them, based upon believing the Word (logos) of God, it will work. They will see the same results that Jesus and His disciples had. It is the difference between knowing it works and trying it to see if it works?

This knowing it works comes by getting the Word (logos) into our mind and getting the Word (rhema) into our hearts.

In Matthew 17:14-21 we are told of a time when Jesus and three of His disciples came down from a mountain. In Matthew 17:14-15, it says, **“And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying...Lord, have mercy on my**

son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water...And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.”

Why was it that those disciples could not cast that evil spirit out of the child? They still did not get the Word (rhema) into their hearts. They were learning, by hearing the Word (logos) that Jesus was speaking to them. But, they did not know that it was “their unbelief” that kept them from casting out that spirit. Then Jesus told them that to overcome “their unbelief,” they needed to be fasting and praying along with hearing the Word (logos) of God.

Doubt and unbelief come from the world and “the god of this world,” which keeps putting thoughts in our minds that the Word (logos) of God will not work for us. The Devil uses the knowledge of good and evil to tell us that the Word (logos) of God does not work.

Even in many Christian Churches today, they do not believe the Word (logos) of God will work. Therefore, they are still operating by the knowledge of good and evil.

Sometimes, it takes the Word (logos) of God in prayer and fasting to overcome the doubt and unbelief in our hearts and minds. These are the Words (logos) that Jesus is speaking to us, so that we can overcome the doubt and unbelief in our lives.

As Jesus’ disciples continued in the Word (logos) that Jesus spoke to them, they were clean by the Word (logos) of God. How will Christians become clean by the Word (logos) of God? As we continue in the Word (logos), the Word (logos) will become “rhema” in our heart. When we have the Word (rhema) in our heart, we will be clean.

What does Jesus mean by being “clean?” It means, cleansed from all the works of the Devil in our lives. We cannot walk with God and with the Devil at the same time. We need to be cleansed from all of the works of the Devil in our lives.

Jesus was clean. The Devil had nothing on Jesus. Jesus did not have any sin or iniquity in Him. When the Devil tried to get Jesus to sin against God the Father, Jesus used the Word (logos) of God against the Devil, and the Devil could not do anything to Jesus.

That is the same position that God the Father wants His Children to be in. God does not want any of His Children to serve the Devil in any area of their lives.

Sin is a work of the Devil. All sin must be overcome so that we can become “clean.” Can Christians sin, and still walk with God? In Romans 6:15,16, the Apostle Paul wrote, **“What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid...Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”**

Christians must strive to overcome all sin and iniquity in their lives. We must continue to put away all of the works of the Devil.

At one time, before we were born again into the Body of Christ, we were controlled by **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4). The Devil had our minds blinded by the knowledge of good and evil. In Ephesians 2:2,3, it says, **“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.”**

Now that we are in Christ Jesus, we must be cleansed from all unrighteousness. It is the Word (logos) of God that will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we will “continue in the Word (logos)

of God,” it will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Being cleansed by the Word (logos) of God, we have all power and authority over all the works of the Devil. Jesus had all power and authority over all of the works of the Devil when He was here on earth in a physical body.

Now, that Jesus has gone to the Father in heaven in His physical body, He is still here on earth in His spiritual body. Jesus is in us, and we are in Him. Not only is Jesus in us, but the Father is also in us. The Holy Spirit is also in us.

Christians need to keep the Word (logos) of God alive in them. The Word (logos) is alive and powerful, and will destroy all that works of the Devil. Every day, we need to be walking in the Word (logos) of God, and living in the Word (logos) of God. When the Word (logos) becomes “rhema” in us, the Devil will not be able to do anything in our lives. Satan is defeated by the “rhema,” that we have in our heart.

For, out of our heart we speak the Word (logos), and the Holy Spirit empowers our Words (rhema) to destroy the works of the Devil.

When we are cleansed from all unrighteousness, the Devil and every demon are subject to the Words (logos) we speak to them. We also have, “the name of Jesus” by inheritance. The name of Jesus is above every name (Phil. 2:9,10). Every evil spirit must bow to the name of Jesus when we speak the Word (logos) of God.

Christians have been given the use of the name of Jesus to destroy all the works of the Devil. The name of Jesus works, when Christians are “clean” by the Word (logos) of God which has been spoken to us by Jesus, who is the Word (logos) of God Himself.

In John 1:1-3, it says, **“In the beginning was the Word (logos), and the Word (logos) was with God, and the Word (logos) was God...The same was in the beginning with God...All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”** Then in John 1:14 it says, **“And the Word (logos) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”**

When Christians get the full understanding of the Word (logos) of God, and when the Word (logos) becomes “rhema” to them, they will be fruitful in bearing the fruit that Jesus is speaking of in John 15:1-8.

John 15:4,5

In John 15:4,5, Jesus said to His disciples, **“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me...I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”**

How do we abide in Jesus, and how does Jesus abide in us? Jesus is not speaking according to our natural understanding. This is a spiritual operation in the spiritual realm, not a natural operation in the natural realm.

In the spiritual realm, words are spirit. Words are not spirits, like angels and demons. But, words control what angels and demons do in the spiritual realm. Words also control what people do in the natural realm and in the spiritual realm. Speaking of the words that people speak, Jesus said in Matthew 12:37, **“For by thy words (logos) thou shalt be justified, and by thy words (logos) thou shalt be condemned.”** Therefore, our words are spirit and they control whatsoever happens in our lives.

When Jesus said, **“Abide in me, and I in you...”** He is not talking about the new birth, whereby we receive Jesus as LORD into our lives, and thereby we receive eternal life (zoe). The new birth is only the beginning of our life in the Spirit of Christ. If we study the Scriptures closely, we will find that there is more to becoming a child of God in the body of Christ than just becoming born again.

The born again experience gives us eternal life in Christ Jesus. Just as our first birth into this world was a natural birth, born of the flesh of Adam. Many people have been born into the natural realm of life (born of the flesh of Adam). Many of them have died in the natural realm of life in the flesh without ever knowing anything concerning what life in the flesh is all about. Some only lived a few days, or a few weeks and they died. They ceased to live in the flesh.

Can that happen also in the spiritual realm of life in the Spirit of Christ? It certainly seems that way, according to the teachings of Jesus. There are many references to this throughout the New Testament. Yet, many Christians have never even given any thought concerning what happens to Christians who turn away from Jesus and the Word of God. What happens to those whose names have been taken out of the book of life?

In Revelation 3:4-6, Jesus told the Apostle John to write to the Church at Sardis, saying, **“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy...He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels....He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** This seems to tell us that Christians “must overcome” in this life to keep their names written in the book of life.

There seems to be a lot more to “eternal life” than what most Christians understand. Therefore in John 15:1-6, Jesus is telling us, we must abide in Him and He must abide in us. Abide means, “continue to live.” It is not just a one time experience. It is a continuous lifestyle of living.

In John 15:4, Jesus said, **“Abide in me, and I in you...”** How do we abide in Jesus? In the realm of the Spirit where God dwells, Jesus is **“the Word (logos) of God”** (John 1:1,2). Jesus never stopped being the Word (logos) of God. When Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary He did not die

spiritually. Jesus died “in the flesh,” but His spirit and soul continued to live. Only Jesus’ flesh died on the Cross of Calvary. Jesus’ soul went down into hell for three days, while Jesus took the keys of hell and death from the Devil. In Revelation 1:18, Jesus said to the Apostle John, **“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”**

Jesus fought the battle for us, and defeated the Devil in His death and resurrection. In Leviticus 17:11, it says, **“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”** Jesus’ fleshly body died when His Blood stopped flowing through His flesh.

The life of the flesh of mankind is in the blood. When Jesus’ blood was shed on the Cross of Calvary, the life of His flesh ceased to live. When Jesus’ physical body died, His soul went down into hell. Jesus was still alive in His soul. Only His body of flesh died on the Cross of Calvary.

This is the same with all mankind. Man is a living soul, with a body of flesh and bones, and a spirit within him which came from God (Job 32:8; Zech. 12:1). It is the soul of man that goes down into hell when those who are not in Christ Jesus die.

Those who are “in Christ Jesus,” when they die, their physical body remains on this earth, but their soul and spirit go to be with Jesus in heaven. This is all explained in 1 Corinthians 15:43-55.

How do we remain in Christ Jesus until we die physically here on this earth? That is what Jesus is talking about in John 15:1-8. We must abide in **“the Word (logos) of God.”** When we are abiding in the Word (logos) of God, we are abiding in Jesus.

There is an enemy in this world, who is Satan, the Devil. The Devil and his evil spirits are constantly working to stop us from abiding in the Word (logos) of God. Look at what Jesus said in Mark 4:14,15, **“The sower soweth the word (logos)...And these are they by the way side, where the word (logos) is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word (logos) that was sown in their hearts.”**

If Satan can get the Word (logos) out of our heart, what will happen to the person who received the Word (logos) in the new birth? Will that person, continue to abide in Christ Jesus? Will that person grow and mature from a babe in Christ Jesus until they become a mature Christian?

If Satan steals the Word (logos) out of their heart, they will not produce any fruit for the kingdom of God. What happens when a branch in the Vine does not produce any fruit?

Look also at what Jesus said in Mark 4:16-19, **“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word (logos), immediately receive it with gladness...And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's (logos) sake, immediately they are offended...And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word (logos)...And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word (logos), and it becometh unfruitful.”**

In Mark 4:14-19, Jesus is speaking of Satan keeping Christians from bearing fruit in the Kingdom of God. The way Satan does it, is he comes to steal the Word (logos) that was first sown in the hearts of born again Christians. This is why Jesus told us in John 15:1-8, that we must abide in Him and His Word (logos) must abide in us. Jesus is not teaching us something in John, Chapter fifteen that He did not teach in other places in the Gospels.

Everything Jesus taught us in the Gospels is very important. What Jesus taught in John Chapter fifteen, should become very important to Christians today. It should be our way of life (the way we live).

To abide in Jesus, we must abide in the Word (logos) of God. The Word (logos) is the written Word that was spoken by a living voice. To abide in the Word (logos) we need to renew our minds daily on the written Word (logos) of God.

Jesus said this in another way in John 6:53,54. It says, **“Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life (zoe) in you...Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life (zoe); and I will raise him up at the last day.”** When Jesus talked about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He was talking about “consuming His Word.” We consume the Word (logos) of God by studying and speaking the Word (logos) of God daily.

Jesus was not speaking of when we eat physical food, such as unleavened bread, and drink wine or juice in remembrance of His death and resurrection. That is not what Jesus was speaking of in John 6:47 through John 6:63. Jesus was speaking of living by the Word (logos/rhema) of God. Jesus made that clear in John 6:63, when He said, **“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words (rhema) that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life (zoe).”**

Jesus said the same thing in Matthew 4:4, when He said, **“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (rhema) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”**

In Romans 10:17 it says, **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word (rhema) of God.”** As we continue studying, hearing, and speaking the Word (logos), it becomes “rhema” to us. The Word (rhema), produces “faith” in our hearts.

This faith enables us to **“live by faith.”** In Romans 1:17 it says, **“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”** In Galatians 3:11 it says, **“But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.”** Hebrews 10:38 says, **“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”**

As Children of God, God expects us to **“live by faith.”** Our faith must be in the Word (logos) of God. We cannot please God if we do not live by faith in His Word (logos).

Jesus is the living Word (logos) of God. In John 1:1,2 it tells us that Jesus is the Word (logos) of God. In Hebrews 4:12, it says, **“For the word (logos) of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”**

Jesus said in John 15:4, **“Abide (meno) in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide (meno) in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide (meno) in me.”** For Christians to abide in Jesus, they must abide in the Word (logos) of God. As we eat His flesh and drink His blood we abide in Jesus (the Vine) (John 6:48-63).

The Greek word “meno” translated into the English word “abide,” means “to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy). To abide in Jesus, Who is the Word (logos/the Vine), we must stay in the Word (logos). It is not just once a week on Sundays. It should be every day, all day. That is what abide means.

In John 15:5, Jesus said, **“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and**

I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” Jesus keeps repeating the importance of abiding in Him; abiding in Jesus (the Word (logos)), and the Word (logos) abiding in us.

It is the life (zoe) of God abiding in us that maintains our life (zoe) in Christ Jesus. Without the life (zoe) of God flowing through us constantly, just like the blood must continue to flow through our physical bodies, we could die. We need the life (zoe) of God flowing through us all day, every day.

It is the Word (logos) of God that keeps the life (zoe) of God flowing. As Jesus mentioned, He is the Vine and we are the branches. The branches are dependent upon the Vine for their eternal life (zoe).

Our eternal life (zoe) comes from God the Father. It flows through Jesus (the Vine) into us (the branches) and the fruit is produced upon the branches.

Without the Vine (the Word of God), we cannot continue to live. We must be connected with the Vine, and we must get our source of eternal life from the Vine, which gets its eternal life from the roots, which is in God the Father.

Without the Vine (the Word of God), we can do nothing (that is, nothing of any importance in the Kingdom of God). If we do not abide in the Vine, and the Vine does not abide in us, we could die (spiritually). We may continue to live in the flesh, but that which is of the flesh is of no value to God.

In Romans 8:5-7 it says, **“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit...For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace...Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.”** This is similar to what Jesus was speaking of in John 15:1-6. If we are in the flesh, we cannot please God. If we are not pleasing to God, what will happen to us?

In John 15:6, Jesus said, **“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”** Jesus said, **“If a man abide not in me...”** What does that mean? Jesus is the Word (logos). The “logos” is the written Word that we have in the inspired written Scriptures.

If we do not abide in the Word (logos), we are not abiding in Jesus. If we are not abiding in Jesus, the words we speak will not agree with the written Word (logos). When the words (logos/rhema) that we speak are not according to what we are taught by the Holy Spirit from the inspired written Word (logos), we are abiding in “the knowledge of good and evil.”

The world lives by the knowledge of good and evil. The world is controlled by **“...the prince of the power of the air...”** In Ephesians 2:2, it says, **“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.”** Those who are of this world are still walking in the flesh. From the time of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, the world has been walking according to “the knowledge of good and evil.”

The world does not have a covenant with God. In Ephesians 2:11,12, it says, **“Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands...That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the**

covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”

If Satan can steal the Word (logos) out of our heart, we will go back to walking after the flesh. Our covenant with God will be of none effect. If we break our covenant with God, we will be without a covenant, even after we were at one time in covenant with God. In Ephesians 2:11, it compares our breaking our covenant with circumcision. In Genesis 17:14, it says, **“And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.”**

In the New Covenant it is not circumcision of the flesh, but “circumcision of the heart.” If we are cut off from abiding in the Word of God, are we not also out of covenant with God? Do we still have a covenant, if we do not keep the covenant?

The written Word (logos) of God is our written covenant with God. All of the promises are in the written Word (logos) of God. Everything we must do to keep the covenant is written in the Word (logos) of God. If we do not obey our covenant (which is written in the Bible), what will happen to us?

In John 15:6, Jesus said, **“If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”**

Where would we end up if we do not abide in the Word (logos) of God? If God the Father casts us forth from the Vine, and we wither, and are cast into the fire, what will happen to us?

This is not good to say the least. Who wants to be cast forth like a dead branch and burned in a fire? It would be much better for us if we would abide in the Word (logos), and bare much fruit for the Vine. Then God will be pleased with us, and Jesus would be pleased with us. We will be blessed in our lives, here on earth and hereafter in eternity.

Look at one of the rewards for abiding in the Vine in John 15:7. Jesus said, **“If ye abide in me, and my words (rhema) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”** What a blessing there is for those who abide in the Vine (the Word (logos)). Those who are faithful to abide in Jesus’ Words (rhema), can ask whatsoever they will, and it will be done unto them.

What would you like God to do for you? Is there anything that you desire in this life here on earth that is not against the will of God? If there is, you can ask and it will be done unto you by God. God the Father will bless you beyond your imagination. You cannot even imagine all that God will do for those who abide in the Words (rhema) of Jesus.

In John 15:8, Jesus said, **“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”** When God the Father is glorified in what we do, then we will remain in the Vine, and bring forth much fruit. If we continue to bring forth much fruit, we can ask whatsoever we desire and it will be done for us of our Father in heaven.

Is that not what Jesus did in His life here on earth? Is there anytime that Jesus did not glorify the Father? When we glorify Jesus and God the Father in everything we do, we will be blessed.

We keep our covenant by abiding in the Word (logos), and keep the Word (logos) abiding in us. It is not by our power or our might that we abide in the Word (logos). It is by the power of the Holy Spirit within us that we are able to abide in the Word (logos) of God.

The Holy Spirit looks at our heart and leads us according to what the will of God is for us in this life here on earth. In Luke 18:1 it says, **“And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.”**

When we pray, we get answers to our prayers by the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. In Zechariah 4:6 it was prophesied, saying, **“...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

In Romans 8:26,27, it says, **“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered...And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”** The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us, according to the will of God.

Without the Holy Spirit working in our lives, we cannot do the will of God. Of our own ability, we cannot do the will of God. In John 15:5. Jesus said, **“...without me ye can do nothing.”** That is why it is so important that we abide in the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) abides in us. When we abide in the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) abides in us, the Holy Spirit helps us to pray. When the Holy Spirit helps us to pray according to the will of God, our prayers will be answered.

Every prayer that Jesus prayed was answered. Why? Because Jesus always did the will of God the Father. As Jesus did the will of God the Father, God the Father was glorified. When God the Father is glorified in what we do, all our prayers will be answered. The will of God will be done in our lives as it was in the life of Jesus, while He was still here on earth in a body of flesh and bones.

We must abide in the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) must abide in us. When we abide in the Word (logos), we will know the truth, and the Truth will set us free.

In John 8:31,32, it says, **“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word (logos), then are ye my disciples indeed...And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** Jesus was talking about being free of all the works of the Devil when He said, we **“...shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”**

No matter what the Devil tries to do in our lives, we will overcome the Devil. We can be free, and we can live free of all the works of the Devil.

How do we become free of all the works of the Devil? It is by abiding in the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) abiding in us. It is so important that Christians understand what Jesus is telling us in John 15:1-8. If we do not abide in the Word (logos) and the Word (logos) does not abide in us, we will not be free of all the works of the Devil.

Why did Jesus come into this world in the flesh of mankind? He came to set us free of the works of the Devil that came upon mankind in the garden of Eden. We could not “of our own ability and power” set ourselves free of the works of the Devil. Therefore, Jesus came in the flesh of mankind, and defeated the Devil for us in His death and resurrection from the dead.

Now it is up to us, as Children of God, to stay free of the works of the Devil. The only way to stay free is to abide in the Word (logos) and keep the Word (logos) abiding in us.

We are told in the written Word (logos), everything we need to know on how to live free and stay free of the works of the Devil. When we become doers of the Word (logos), not just hearers only, we will be free of all the works of the Devil.

Our covenant with God is written in the New Testament. It is also explained in the New Testament, so that we can understand our covenant. We are not under the Law of Moses, that the Children of Israel were under in the Old Testament. But, we are under the commandments given to

us by Jesus in the New Covenant.

There are two commandments given to us, which are listed a number of times in the New Testament. Mainly, they are **“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment...And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these”** (Mark 12:30,31).

In John 15:9,10, Jesus said, **“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love...If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.”**

The greatest commandment is love (agape). **“God is love (agape)”** (1 John 4:8). When we walk in love (agape), first with God and then with our neighbors, we will fulfill all of the Law and commandments. God the Father will be glorified. God the Son will be glorified. We will be blessed in everything we do. Satan will not have any place in our lives, and we will have all power over all the works of the Devil.

Just before Jesus went back to the Father He said, **“...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth...Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...”** (Matt. 28:18-20). Why did Jesus make a statement like that to His disciples?

As Children of God in Christ Jesus, we inherited all that Jesus had when He went to be with the Father. Jesus defeated the Devil and all his demons for us. Now, “in Christ Jesus” we inherited all that Jesus possessed when He died and arose again from the dead.

In Romans 8:16,17, it says, **“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God...And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”** It is our inheritance. We are joint-heirs with Christ. We are in Christ and Christ is in us.

By our inheritance of all that Jesus possessed when He died and rose again from the dead, we have been given power and authority over all the works of the Devil. As we abide in Jesus Christ, and His Word abides in us, we have victory over the Devil.

There are many people in Churches today that think they are born again Christians. They were told by someone that if they would say a prayer, they would be saved. They said the prayer, but nothing happened. They left the same as they came.

We must make Jesus Christ “LORD of our lives,” not just Savior. LORD, means, “supreme in authority.” When Jesus is LORD, then we are no longer in control of our lives. When Jesus is in control of everything in our lives, we have a desire to abide in His Word, and His Word will abide in us.

If anyone is not abiding in the Word and the Word is not abiding in them, it would be best if they make that change now. Do not wait until tomorrow. Today, is the day to make Jesus Christ “LORD.”

I know from experience that there is a difference between Saved and Born Again. For many years I believed I was saved. I knew God was working in my life for years. But I had not made Jesus “LORD of my life.”

It is not just a prayer, but a commitment to receive Jesus Christ as LORD. When Jesus is

LORD, He will give us the desire to read and study our Bibles. The desire will be so great, that we will not want to stop reading and studying our Bibles.

That is the evidence we should all have in our lives, to read and study our Bibles daily, every day. The more we read and study our Bibles, the more we will see things change in our lives. If there is no change in our lives from what we were before we were born again to what we are now, there is a problem somewhere and it is not God.

Anyone who truly wants to abide in the Word needs the help of God. God will not help those who do not have a desire for His Word. God will heal them when someone prays for them. But, that is only because God keeps His Word.

People can be healed, and still not go to be with Jesus when they die. It is not so much what God does in our lives that counts. It is what we do about abiding in the Word and the Word abiding in us.

It all starts with making Jesus Christ "LORD" in our daily lives, by submitting ourselves unto God and resisting the Devil, and he will flee from us (James 4:7).