
IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND IF MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU

condition! who? do what? where? additional condition! whose? what? do what? where? who?

condition #1: more is involved
condition #2

If you live in Jesus and if Jesus' words live in you

choice #1 endure/yes a specified place **plus** choice #2 verbatim/yes endure/yes in your heart/yes
 not a command/no continue/yes personal not a command/no your words/no continue/yes in your mind/yes your decision/yes stay put/yes
 intimate your decision/yes your thoughts/no stay put/yes just with you /no if you do/okay sporadic/no vital if you do/okay
your conceptions/no sporadic/no just in a book/no
 if you don't/okay in limbo/no if you don't /okay your opinions//no fixed residence/yes just in your pastor/no if you do/promise erratic/no
if you do/promise your pastor's opinions/no in limbo/no just in your church/no confirmed consistent fellowship with Jesus/yes confirmed a
 great Bible scholar's ideas/no memorized/yes if you don't/ His life flowing through you/yes if you don't/ Billy Graham's conception/no
in you/yes/yes/yes promise annulled constant, abiding relationship/yes promise annulled Chuck Swindoll's interpretation/no
 as a branch remains in the vine/yes A literal grasp of His truth/yes
longing to have his will fulfilled in you/yes God's Word a permanent, abiding part of your existence/yes
fixed residence/yes His Word a viable part of your life/yes
sharing His life/yes
growing through His strength/yes
bearing fruit for His glory/yes
abiding vitally united to (Amplified Bible)/yes

**ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH
AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU**

What again are the conditions?

if you remain in me
and (if) My words remain in you.

How many times is the word *remain* repeated in this passage?

In order to claim this promise, why is it necessary for us to "*remain in Jesus*"?

In the allegory given, Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. As a branch must remain attached to the vine in order to function and bear fruit, we must *remain* in a bonded consistent relationship with Jesus, our Lord and vine if we are to bear fruit for the Father's glory.

This promise in the written Word cannot function in our lives apart from Jesus, the Living Word because Jesus is the written Word personified. It is His life in us that gives us the desire to pray for God's will to be performed according to the written word.

In order to claim this promise, why is it important for us to have the *Written Word* memorized and hidden in our hearts?

1. Although we do have evidence of His great works in our world and in the universe, apart from His written Word we have no knowledge of who God is, or His will for our lives. And apart from His Word we have no pure truth on which to rely. Scripture as He has given it to us is our lifeline to God. It is our text book, our love letter, our map for life here and beyond this world. As we memorize this precious Word He has given us, it becomes part of us, our thinking and our desires are drawn more and more toward His way of thinking and His perfect will as it is revealed in His Word.

2. God is the only One who can know how we should be praying. It is only as we have His pure truth, His literal Word in our hearts and in our minds that we can be assured that we are praying according to His will and thereby claim this promise. In other words, how can we know what God's will is, if we don't have a literal grasp as He has stated it in His Word.

**THIS IS TO MY FATHER'S GLORY
THAT YOU BEAR MUCH FRUIT
SHOWING YOURSELVES TO BE MY DISCIPLES**

According to verse five, how do we bear *much* fruit?

This entire passage dwells on the branch remaining in the vine and bearing fruit as an illustration of us, as branches remaining in Jesus, the Vine. Then in addition as His Word lives in us, He gives us this additional promise *that we might bear much fruit for His Father may be glorified*.

(You may want to encourage discussion by introducing this thought: Could it be that without His Word living in us, we might bear "fruit", but that addition is given that we might bear "much fruit".)

Why did Jesus give us this awesome promise? (You may want to discuss these in detail as they pertain to our daily life and walk with the Lord.)

- _____ for personal convenience (or the convenience of others)?
- _____ to simplify our life (or that for others)?
- _____ for personal gain (for ourself or others)?
- _____ for personal interests (for ourself or others)?
- _____ that we bear fruit?
- _____ that others bear fruit?
- _____ that we bear *much* fruit?
- _____ that others bear *much* fruit?
- _____ that the Father will be glorified?

Additional Ideas for Discussion:

In a passage of Scripture focused on an allegory of the branch *remaining* in the vine and bearing fruit as is pertains to our continuous bonding to Jesus our Lord, what significance do you see in the fact that He adds the addition condition of His words remaining or *living* in us before volunteering the promise regarding answered prayer?

What conclusions can you draw from the Scriptures about Jesus and *The Sword* in Revelation 1:16, 2:12-16, and 19:11-16 compared with His command to us in Ephesians 6:17-18?