



## Sukkot – God With Us

**Preparing for Sukkot:** Isaiah 9:6.7 AMP “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on His shoulders. And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen.”

**Personal Journal:** In this season I sit back and ask myself. Is what I’m doing helping to settle the issues in my soul of peace and rest...not some emotional moment of things going my way during times of ease or excitement...but a surrendered soul overtaken by the rivers of living water...a soul that is being equipped to share in the sufferings of this present age and the glory of the age to come.

**Question:** When it comes to your personal relationship with God, what is the hardest thing for you to believe about Him?

**My Answer:** It is sometimes challenging for me to embrace the reality that God is “real time” present in my day-to-day life, moment to moment...no matter what I’m doing He’s right there...and presently right here with me...not some distant observer.

### Scriptures:

- 1) Joshua 1:9 ESV “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
- 2) Matthew 28:20 ESV “Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- 3) Hebrews 13:5 ESV “Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”
- 4) 1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV “Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?”

**Observation 1: Sukkot Overarching Theme:** God wants our awareness heightened of our true value to Him and His indwelling presence within us...We are Living Sukkahs...in this season set our minds on this great spiritual reality...REJOICE...REJOICE...REJOICE!!!...the finality of The Cross...tendency to move away from this great reality.

**Observation 2:** God working in one’s life prior to salvation...very few of us have staggered upon the cross. Pr.19:21-Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

**Cf. Ps. 139: 13-16 AMP** “You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb.14. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.15. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.16. You saw me before I was born. Everyday of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.”

**Brief Testimony...**Drug overdose story...no coincidences...intentional salvific episode... Giving the eulogy at the funeral of Frank...

**Quote:** “Only God, can turn mess into a message. A test into a testimony. A trial into a triumph, and a victim into a victory.”

**Reflection:** He knows us by name, He walks with us, He talks with us, He comforts us...PBO "It's All About Yeshua. He is the foundation, our present Sustainer, and the coming glorious fulfillment of all the festivals. He is the one we should love all the more deeply..."

**Question:** It's not about religion!!

**Quote:** "Religion is like a blind man looking in a black room for a black cat that isn't there and finding it."

**Religion: Preferred Definition:** Man's innumerable methodologies of trying to get to a God they neither know nor understand.

**Faith:** Is belief and active trust in a God we don't fully know or understand, who came to us.

**Verse: John 3:16, 17 AMP** "For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. Vs.17 God sent His Son into the world, not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.

**Yeshua, The Treasure of Heaven:**

**Treasure:** American Heritage Dictionary: One considered especially precious or valuable.

Colossians 1:13-20 AMP The Incomparable Christ <sup>13</sup> For He has rescued us *and* has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness and has transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].

<sup>15</sup> He is the exact living image [the essential manifestation] of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible], the firstborn [the preeminent one, the sovereign, and the originator] of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For [a]by Him all things were created in heaven and on earth, [things] visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things were created *and* exist through Him [that is, by His activity] and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He Himself existed *and* is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. [His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.] <sup>18</sup> He is also the head [the life-source and leader] of the body, the [b]church; and He is the beginning, [c]the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will occupy the first place [He will stand supreme and be preeminent] in everything. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the *Father* for all the fullness [of deity—the sum total of His essence, all His perfection, powers, and attributes] to dwell [permanently] in Him (the Son), <sup>20</sup> and through [the intervention of] the Son to reconcile all things to Himself, making peace [with believers] through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say,] whether things on earth or things in heaven.

**Close:**

We, as believers, long for treasures in Heaven but God Himself has given to us His most cherished Treasure the gift of His Magnificent Son...Yeshua!

Our King is returning... And He will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David for all eternity...

**1**"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2**Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3**You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. **4**Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

**5**"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. **6**If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned. **7**If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. **8**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- To “abide” is to live, continue, or remain; to abide in Christ is to live in Him or remain in Him.
- When a person is saved, he or she is described as being “in Christ” ([Romans 8:1](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#).)
- Held secure in a permanent relationship ([John 10:28,29](#))
- It is the position of all true believers
- Abiding in Yeshua as taught in [1 John 2:5-6](#) is synonymous with “Knowing” Christ.
- Biblically, “abiding in” “remaining in,” and “knowing” Yeshua are references to the same thing: SALVATION.
- The phrase *abiding in Christ* pictures an intimate, close relationship, and not just a superficial acquaintance...aka vital union...Amen!!

As we gather over the next several days in celebration of Sukkot let us reflect on the indwelling Spirit of God. The Beauty of our Messiah and sincere love for one another. HALLELUJUH!!

## ADDENDUM

### Tips

- Seek fellowship with those who strive to abide in Christ.
- Be humble. Don't be proud of anything but make your boast in Christ alone.
- Follow the idea of FROG - *fully rely on god*. Think of that, then daily frustrations seem small.
- Read examples of people who are abiding in Christ.

To “abide” is to live, continue, or remain; so, to abide in Christ is to live in Him or remain in Him. When a person is saved, he or she is described as being “in Christ” ([Romans 8:1](#); [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)), held secure in a permanent relationship ([John 10:28–29](#)). Therefore, abiding in Christ is not a special level of Christian experience, available only to a few; rather, it is the position of all true believers. The difference between those abiding in Christ and those not abiding in Christ is the difference between the saved and the unsaved.

Abiding in Christ is taught in [1 John 2:5–6](#), where it is synonymous with “knowing” Christ (verses 2 and 3). Later in the same chapter, John equates “remaining” in the Father and the Son with having the promise of eternal life (verses 24 and 25). Biblically, “abiding in,” “remaining in,” and “knowing” Christ are references to the same thing: salvation.

The phrase *abiding in Christ* pictures an intimate, close relationship, and not just a superficial acquaintance. In [John 15:4–7](#), Jesus tells His disciples that drawing life from Him is essential, using the picture of branches united to a vine: “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them and cast them into the fire and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” Without that vital [union with Christ](#) that salvation provides, there can be no life and no productivity. Elsewhere, the Bible likens our relationship with Christ to that of a body with a head ([Colossians 1:18](#))—another essential union.

some people take the warning of [John 15:6](#) (branches that do not abide in the vine are thrown away and burned) to mean that Christians are always in danger of losing their salvation. In other words, they say it’s possible to be saved but not “abide,” in which case we would be cast away. But this could only be true if “abiding” were separate from salvation, referring to a state of intimacy with Christ we must strive to attain post-salvation. The Bible is clear that salvation comes by grace and is maintained by grace ([Galatians 3:2–3](#)). Also, if a branch could somehow fall away from the vine, resulting in the loss of salvation, then other, very clear passages of Scripture would be contradicted (see [John 10:27–30](#)).

It is best to interpret the [True Vine](#) metaphor this way: Jesus is the True Vine, obviously. The branches who

“abide” in Him are the truly saved—they have a real and vital connection to the Savior. The withered branches who do not “abide” in Him are the unsaved pretenders who feigned an attachment to the Vine but drew no life from Him. In the end, the pretenders will be seen for what they were: hangers-on who had no authentic attachment to Jesus. For a while, both Peter and Judas seemed identical in their walk with Christ. But Peter was attached to the Vine; Judas was not.

John restates the withered-branch principle this way: “They [people now opposed to Christ] went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us” ([1 John 2:19](#)).

One of the proofs of salvation is [perseverance](#), or sustained abiding in Christ. The saved will continue in their walk with Christ (see [Revelation 2:26](#)). That is, they will “abide” or remain in Him. God will complete His work in them ([Philippians 1:6](#)), and they will bring forth much fruit to the glory of God ([John 15:5](#)). Those who fall away, turn their backs on Christ, or fail to abide simply show their lack of saving faith. Abiding is not what saves us, but it is one of the signs of salvation.

Proofs of abiding in Christ (i.e., proofs that one is truly saved and not just pretending) include obedience to Christ’s commands ([John 15:10](#); [1 John 3:24](#)); following Jesus’ example ([1 John 2:6](#)); living free from habitual sin ([1 John 3:6](#)); and the awareness of a divine presence within one’s life ([1 John 4:13](#)).

## **2 Great Quest in the Hearts of Men:**

1. Who am I?
2. Why am I here?

Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden...where man became separated from God in spirit, soul, and body these two quests have plagued the heart of mankind ever since.