

Abide in My Love

by Lingxiao Zhang

" As the Father loved Me , I also have loved you, abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My father's commandments and abide in His love " (John 15:9-10) The Lord Jesus loves us as the Father loves Him. He requires us to abide in His love as He abides in the Father's love.

First let's see how Jesus Christ abide in the Father's love, and how the Father loved Him. In John 10:17-18, the Lord Jesus said: "My Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to I take it up again. No one takes it from me. But I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down. and I have power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father." Jesus Christ, the Father's beloved Son, willingly left His glory and gave Himself up to save the world. As God He said, I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. Being both God and man, I voluntarily became a man, humbled myself, obediently, willingly accepted death, and gained a new life. This is the command I received from my Father, who made me a man to obey Him, and I laid down my life to have a new life, and at the same time, I returned to my Father, so that My Father may live in me. "I am in the Father, and the Father in Me. The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my authority, but the Father who dwells in me does the works." (John 14:10). Jesus Christ lived and acted only in the Father. His eyes, attention, mind, emotion and will were all in the Father. He could see nothing but God in his direct gaze . He did not look at human things in themselves outside of God, nor did He do anything by himself. "The Son can do nothing by himself, but he can only do what he sees the Father doing." (John 5:19) He completely surrendered himself to the Father, obeyed the Father's leading, and let the Father live in Him instead of himself. The Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father, conveying the love of the Father to the Son, and the love of the Son to the Father. The Son of God lived in the love of the Father and did His will.

Jesus Christ leaves his life to take the new life, teaches all people to leave their old life of Adam. To have a new life, we must let the tomb become our cradle, as it was for Jesus Christ. Without death, no life. Also, without life, there would be no death. " if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!" (1 Corinthians 15:17) All the self-life and behavior that came from Adam must be given up, so that Jesus Christ's life can live in us and act on our behalf. If we keep our eyes on Him, put our intent and attention in God and for God alone , voluntarily give up our own actions, and faithfully follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, He will do wonderful works in us, breaking down our old life of Adam. Then we gain God's life. So, our main concern is to abide in Him. Once we find ourselves away from the Lord, we purposely focus on Him, and go back to our spirit again, right away to the depths of our hearts, back to where we really belong, which is in Him. No matter how many interruptions there are, repeat this simple turning back to the Lord over and over again. It will be a bit difficult at first, because we are firmly bound by sin and self. Only through a great deal of repeated effort are we turned around within. But eventually those ropes which bind us have to

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loosen. When one thing is done repeatedly, a habit will be formed. After such continuous practice, we will finally get the results of our work, and our soul will get used to turning to God. Gradually, this turning back is no longer a superficial deliberate action, but a spontaneous one from the depths of the heart, producing a state of continuous abiding in the Lord. To abide in him is to abide in his love, for God is love. In this state of indwelling, we continue to communicate with the Lord in love. The Lord is in us, and the love for us will become stronger and stronger, and we will be more attracted to Him and immersed in His love. The love of the Lord is the power that attracts us. When we live in Him all the time, we will be immersed in the depths of God at an unimaginable speed.

When our old Adam life is gone, God leads us into Him, and we are transformed by Him, disappear in Him, and will receive His abundant life. Being enveloped in His divine life, the love God bestowed on us is beyond human comprehension, and His love pursuing us is unimaginable. He sits at the door of our hearts, attains us, and delights Himself in being with us at all times and in loading us with expressions of His love. He engraves His chaste, pure, and tender love upon our heart. "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm. For love is as strong as death" (Song of Songs 8:6).

May we practice giving up the old life and gaining His life, abide in His love. Amen.