



Abide in Me!

John 15: 4 NKJV - 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.

When God created the fish, He spoke to the sea: Genesis 1:20 – Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” This shows that the sea is the natural and life-sustaining environment for fish. If you remove a fish from water, it cannot survive — its life source is the sea. Most fish can live anywhere from 3 to 60 years (such as the Wels Catfish), but only as long as they remain in water.

When God created trees, He spoke to the earth: Genesis 1:24 – Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind”; and it was so.

Trees draw life from the soil; it's where they root down and grow upward. Even when placed in pots or grown hydroponically, they still need the nutrients that mimic the earth. If uprooted and left out of their element, they wither and die. Trees can live from less than 100 years to several thousand years, depending on the species — but only when grounded in their life source.

But when God created man, He did not speak to nature — He spoke to Himself:

Genesis 1:26 – Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” This profound truth reveals that just as fish need the sea and trees need the soil, mankind needs God to truly live. Our source is divine. Disconnection from God is spiritual death. We may exist, but we do not thrive apart from Him.

Jesus emphasized this in John 15, teaching that to abide in Him is to live. A branch cannot bear fruit unless it remains connected to the vine. In the same way, we cannot bear

spiritual fruit unless we remain in intimate fellowship with Christ — through prayer, obedience, His Word, and communion with the Body of Christ.

To abide means to stay rooted, to remain connected. Christ is our source — our spiritual environment. Just as the fish thrives in the water and the tree flourishes in the soil, the believer can only experience true life, growth, and fruitfulness when they remain in Him.

John 15:5 (NKJV) – “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.”

Things that cause us to drift Spiritually

- 1) **An Out-of-Control Schedule** - “becoming busy like never before” **Ephesians 5: 16-18** Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
- 2) **A Misplaced Affections-** “becoming a lover of the world”. **1 John 2: 15** Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
- 3) **Discouragement “becoming tired”:** 2 Chronicles 20:15 “Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the battle is not yours, but God’s.”
- 4) **Abundance** “having it all ” Deuteronomy 28:11
- 5) **Giving - in habit (sin) “Running from God” Hebrews 12: 1-5** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.