

Back to the Father

Your Journey

Growing in Our Relationship

If You Remain



Our fellowship is to be with the Father and with his Son. (1 John 1:3) If we will remain in this relationship we will grow and mature. It is meant to be active, vibrant and fruitful. It is not meant to be an on / off type of relationship but one that is consistent and everlasting.

- The Greek word “meno”, means to remain or abide in. The relation in which one person or thing stands with another, chiefly in John's writings; thus to remain in or with someone, i.e., to be and remain united with him, one with him in heart, mind, and will; e.g., with *en* and the dative of person (John 6:56; 14:10; 15:4-7; 1 John 2:6; 3:24; 4:15, 16); The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament

Christ is the one that supplies the heartbeat that gives life to our relationship with the Father. There is no life outside the redeeming work of Christ.

John 15:1-11 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the farmer. ² Every branch in me that doesn't bear fruit, he takes away. Every branch that bears fruit, he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already pruned clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ **Remain in me**, and **I in you**. As the branch can't bear fruit by itself, unless it remains in the vine, so neither can you, unless you remain in me. ⁵ **I am the vine**. You are the branches. He who **remains in me**, and **I in him**, the same bears much

fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If a man doesn't remain in me, he is thrown out as a branch, and is withered; and they gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you will ask whatever you desire, and it will be done for you. ⁸ "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; and so you will be my disciples. ⁹ Even as the Father has loved me, I also have loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be made full. WEB

When we hold fast to God's word God holds fast to us and we remain in the Father and in his Son.

1 John 2:23-24 Whoever denies the Son, the same doesn't have the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. ²⁴ Therefore, as for you, let that remain in you which you heard from the beginning. If that which you heard from the beginning remains in you, you also will remain in the Son, and in the Father. WEB

We come to experience the heart and mind of God when we enter into his word and live it out in our lives. Becoming one with the Father and the Son involves all our heart, mind, soul and strength. The deeper our commitment is to our God the deeper our relationship with him will be.

1 John 2:3-6 This is how we know that we know him: if we keep his commandments. ⁴ One who says, "I know him," and doesn't keep his commandments, is a liar, and the truth isn't in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps his word, God's love has most assuredly been perfected in him. This is how we know that we are in him: ⁶ he who says he remains in him ought himself also to walk just like he walked. WEB

If we truly want to experience love that is pure and undefiled then we will need to experience God who by his own nature is this love. God has not only called us to experience his love but to also remain in it and feel at home in it.

1 John 4:7-21 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. ⁸ He who doesn't love doesn't know God, for God is love. ⁹ By this was God's love revealed in us, that God has sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God loved us in this way, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love has been perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we remain in him and he in us, because

he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God **remains in him**, and **he in God**. ¹⁶ We know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and he who **remains in love remains in God**, and **God remains in him**. ¹⁷ In this love has been made perfect among us, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is, even so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has punishment. He who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love Him, because he first loved us. ²⁰ If a man says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who doesn't love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? ²¹ This commandment we have from him, that he who loves God should also love his brother. WEB

We have been called to enter into a relationship that gives life and that life we have when we remain in the Father and in his Son. It is a life full of all the goodness of God. Our relationship with God is one that is meant to bring us into a place of having one heart and mind with all his goodness. This relationship will change our very nature and allow us to be an extension of God's love and goodness to others.

Additional scriptures for consideration-Ps 15:1-5, Ps 27:4, Luke 17:20-21, John 6:52-58, John 14:18-31, John 17:17-26, Col 1:27-281, John 2:28-29, 1 John 3:4-10, 1 John 3:23-24, 1 John 4:4, 2 John 7-9, Rev 3:20