

Devotional Guide: The Blessings of Abiding in Christ

Opening Prayer

Lord, as we come to listen to Your Word today,
open our eyes to see,
our ears to hear,
our hearts to feel,
and our minds to understand
all that You want to reveal to us.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Take a moment to slowly and prayerfully read the passage: **1 John 2:28 – 3:3 (ESV)**

Devotional Reflection

This passage is one of assurance, identity, and transformation. It begins with a gentle address: “little children,” reminding us of our status—not as strangers to God, but as His beloved sons and daughters. John encourages us to **abide**: to remain, dwell, and stay close to Jesus. Why? Because staying near to Christ gives us confidence, both now and when He returns. Abiding keeps us grounded in who we are and who we’re becoming. John then makes one of the most staggering statements in all of Scripture: ***“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.”*** We aren’t merely treated as God’s children—we **are** God’s children. Chosen. Adopted. Loved. Just like a family that adopts a child and says, “*We chose you,*” so too has God chosen us. And His choice is not temporary or performance-based. It’s eternal. That means even if we’ve walked away, even if shame clouds our hearts, even if we’ve believed the lie that we’re too broken or too far gone—God still calls us His. We might walk away, but He never walks away from us. And our future is glorious. John tells us that when Christ appears, we’ll be like Him—transformed in glory. That future reality gives us power to live differently today. *“Because I will be like Jesus in the future, I can live like Jesus in the present.”* This is the blessing of abiding: confidence in God’s love, clarity about our identity, and courage to live with hope and holiness.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does the word “abide” mean to you personally? What helps you stay close to Jesus?
2. Do you truly believe that you are God’s child, chosen and loved? What might be getting in the way of living out that truth?
3. How does your hope in Christ’s return impact the way you live today?
4. Is there any shame or fear keeping you at a distance from God? What would it look like to come back and abide again?

Small Group Discussion Prompts

- Share a time when you felt especially aware of God's love for you as His child.
- How can the group support one another in abiding in Christ throughout the week?
- What does "confidence at His coming" look like practically in your life?
- Who in your life might need to be reminded that they are still welcome in God's family?

Bonus Reflection: *The Church and the Global Family of God*

Reflect on this idea shared in the sermon:

"The seed of faith is still alive in so many hearts... It may be buried. It may be undernourished. It may be waiting to be awakened. But it's there." Spend a moment praying for someone you know who has drifted from church or from faith. Ask God to rekindle their heart and give you the courage to invite them back.

And remember: **Back to Church Sunday** is coming up on **Sunday 30th November**. Who might God be prompting you to invite?

Closing Prayer

Father God,
Thank You for calling me Your child.
Thank You that my place in Your family is secure—not because of anything I've done, but because of what Jesus has done for me.
Help me to abide in You—to stay close, to remain rooted, and to walk with confidence and joy.
Where I've wandered, draw me back.
Where shame lingers, cover me with grace.
Where fear takes hold, fill me with hope.
And may my life today reflect the future You have promised.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.