

Dear Friend,

I remember when the Holy Spirit said to me, "*Jesus of Nazareth was the most humble man who has ever lived.*" Jesus surrendered all of his rights as a human being to live his own life, and he chose to humble himself completely to do the will of the Father instead. Because of that continual, daily decision ... the Father was able to live HIS LIFE through the mortal body of Jesus on planet earth. Here are a few verses where Jesus reveals those truths to us:

Joh 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Joh 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Jesus also said that we disciples are to be as our Master.

Mat 10:25a It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord.

I have been asking the Holy Spirit to teach me how I can humble myself even more so that the LIFE of CHRIST can flow through my mortal body. I am an engineer by training and I like "practical" applications. Do not just tell me to be more humble. Please tell me HOW to be more humble. The Holy Spirit gave me the answer in three stages. He said the first stage for all "disciples in training" is for them to learn the sayings of Jesus so His Word ABIDES in them. Remember that Jesus said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." [John 6:63]

That is why you find that those three thousand people who were saved after Peter's first message on the Day of Pentecost continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine.

Act 2:41-47 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. (42) And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common; (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

The new "disciples in training" were learning from the apostles. What were the apostles teaching them? We know the answer to that question from the instructions Jesus gave the apostles right before He ascended into heaven:

Mat 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The apostles taught the people what Jesus had taught them. They were teaching them what Jesus had taught so that the words of Jesus would live [ABIDE] in them. The sayings of Jesus are not just normal words like everybody else speaks. The sayings of Jesus are literally THE WORD OF GOD! We saw earlier in this letter

that Jesus said He was not composing the words that He spoke. It was literally God the Father speaking through Him. That is why Jesus said, "The words I speak to you, they are spirit, and they are life." Those words are the Father's WORDS and they are like SEEDS OF LIFE; and when they LIVE IN US they produce FRUIT in the earth. [See Mark chapter four.] Jesus said if these words He spoke ABIDE in us, we will bear much fruit.

Joh 15:7-8 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (8) Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

What should new Christians be taught? They are to be steadfastly taught the apostle's doctrine. What is the apostle's doctrine? The sayings of Jesus ... which are the words of the Father ... which is the WORD OF GOD!

As I look back on my journey through life, I am seeing more and more clearly how the many mistakes I have made were because I did not have the words of Jesus ABIDING in me like I should have. When confronted with any situation, problem, or dilemma ... I tremble now as I remember how frequently I relied on human wisdom instead of the words of Jesus to make decisions. His words abiding in me would have given instant answers to immediate problems, if only His words had been truly ABIDING at the forefront of my mind all the time ... instead of just being knowledge I had placed on the furthest, back shelf of my memory.

How often I defended myself instead of "not rendering evil for evil." How often I lost my temper and spoke evil against people instead of "loving my enemies, doing good to them that hated me, blessing those that cursed me, and praying for those who spitefully used me." [Mat 6:27-28]

How long did I continue in various fleshly habits which were perhaps not "deal-breaker" sins, but were for sure weights and things of the world that slowed me down from my pursuit of God? it would have been so much better to simply have believed and obeyed the simple words of Jesus such as these:

Joh 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Joh 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; (32) And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

What is the first level of action for Gary to become more humble? More than ever before in my life, I am going through the four gospels, again and again, as many times as necessary until the words of Jesus ABIDE in me ... on the front shelf of my mind ... all of the time. It is as we CONTINUE in His WORD that we are His disciples indeed. We will get into the next two phases of humbling ourselves in the next two letters.

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY