

Abide

The Power and Beauty of God's Word

February 6, 2022 | Abide Part 6 | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Have you ever tried to cram last minute to prepare for a test and then not recalled anything after the test was complete?

READ: John 17:13-21

FOCUS: The Father's Word sanctifies us and sends us: away from evil and into mission.

OBSERVE: Jesus's prayer as He prepared to depart the earth was focused on helping His disciples connect to God's Word. He prays that they will abide in the word of the Heavenly Father and be united by His word.

The Father's word is the Scripture, which Jesus embodied, and the Gospel message, which He preached.

To sanctify means to make us holy or wholly devoted to God. This in turn makes us more like God.

- Jesus, who is the word, shows us what it means to be wholly devoted to God.
- As we bring our lives before the presence of Jesus in prayer AND as we bring our lives before His words in the Bible, we see God and ourselves more truthfully.
- When we see God more truthfully, we praise Him and develop a deeper affection and appreciation. When we see ourselves more truthfully, we confess our sins and ask the Holy Spirit to cleanse us and transform us.

The Father's words sanctify us away from evil: we don't want evil to reign in our lives and world.

- Evil can exist in our sinful motivations and actions.
- Evil can corrupt us and bring dysfunctional and destruction in our lives.
- Evil does exist in how society gives us a different message than the gospel through various avenues,

The word also sends us. What does God's sending look like?

- Jesus left what was familiar to Him and was sent by the Heavenly Father into the world, even though it would misunderstand Him.
- He lived wholly devoted to the Father representing His power, wisdom, and character and to share the message.
- His ultimate act would happen on the cross when He took on the sins of all humanity (including you and me) in exchange for forgiveness as He died so that we can have life.
- Jesus gave them everything they needed to succeed including the Holy Spirit.

REFLECT:

- As we conclude our series let's remember that abiding in the word is not like cramming for a test. It's preparing for a long-term career or journey or a marriage for a lifetime.

TAKE ACTION:

- What can you do to abide more in God's word? This might mean a new reading plan, using a tool like YouVersion, or journaling as you read to reflect more on what you have read. This might mean setting aside more time daily for reading during the week, not just on Sunday.

PRAY: *Lord Jesus, help me to abide in Your Word every day. I would like to be sanctified from evil and sent by You into Your mission. Help me to shine light as a disciple because of the Word in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*