

Abide



Passages: John 15:1-17

1 Think back to when Jesus first saved you and grafted you into the vine. What was more painful for you; your initial death to your old life or a recent time of pruning? Why do you think that is?

2 Read [John 15:7-11](#). How do you think spiritual disciplines relate to abiding in Christ? These are things like: reading, studying and meditating on God's Word, prayer, fellowship and serving with a local body, evangelism, and stewardship. Are they ways to abide in Jesus, the result of abiding, or both?

"I ask to be permitted to give one word of advice to my reader. It is this. It needs time to grow into Jesus the Vine: do not expect to abide in Him unless you will give Him that time. It is not enough to read God's Word, or meditations as here offered, and when we think we have hold of the thoughts, and have asked God for His blessing, to go out in the hope that the blessing will abide. No, it needs day by day time with Jesus and with God. We all know the need of time for our meals each day--every workman claims his hour for dinner; the hurried eating of so much food is not enough. If we are to live through Jesus, we must feed on Him (John 6:57); we must thoroughly take in and assimilate that heavenly food the Father has given us in His life."

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

"Don't expect to abide in Christ, through a fast food, or microwave spirituality. We must feed on Jesus, we must learn to thoroughly abide in Him for the necessary nutrients we need in life to both survive and thrive in our faith."

Pastor Paul

3 What are some of the ways we may be tempted to consume "frozen" spiritual food? What are some things you might consider spiritual "fast food."

What are the dangers of consuming predominately this type of spiritual nutrition? How might this person be malnourished or spiritually unhealthy? What are they missing? What are they getting too much of?

4 Read through [John 15:12-17](#) where Jesus transitions from talking about our relationship with Him to how we relate to one another (branch to branch, believer to believer). What can we learn from these verses about how Jesus wants us to treat one another?

5 In what way have you been encouraged by someone within the Gulfview family? How have you been served by others within the body? In what ways has someone shown you sacrificial love?