

Living Faithfully as those who have been Born Again



Read today's passage slowly, ponder its meaning and feel the love apostle John had for the believers. As he approached the end of his life, his teaching focused more on the essence of Christianity. Let us pray for illumination and guidance from the Holy Spirit as we read through these verses.



When I read the passage, the verse that caught my eyes and made me ponder the most was the first one: "little children, abide in Him" (1 Jn 2:28). What does it mean to "abide in Him"? How does one "abide in Him"? The word "abide" includes eating, drinking, sleeping and all other normal daily activities. It represents an all encompassing and intimate connection with God. Do we eat and drink for the Lord? Do we entrust Him with all our souls before we fall asleep so that we can truly rest in His presence? Do we faithfully carry out our duties as His children when we go about our daily lives: eat, drink, talk, meet up with friends and go to work etc etc? If we always "abide in Him", how can we sin? If our hearts and minds are for God, we cannot sin. Just as 1 John 3:9 says, "Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."



Let us ask God to enlighten us with the true meaning of "abiding", help us pray according to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, such that in every aspect of our lives we are filled with His holiness and that we can be made pure and blameless, just like Christ our Lord.



"Abide in him", it is John's teaching as well as bidding. It is the only way we can have assurance and purpose in our lives, have discipline and self-control yet still live a fulfilling and beautiful life.

When we "abide in Him", the Lord also lives in us. This is a process of mutual satisfaction. When we are filled with Him, we do not get swayed by the devil's trickery, have wisdom for discernment, have courage to resist temptations, are grounded, patient and honest. Therefore, "not sinning" is actually not from our own effort, but rather from God's indwelling and full protection on us. It is also the sign of God's grace and evidence of our salvation.

Therefore, do not boast about "not sinning" for it is what's expected of all of us who "have been born of God". Let us keep this in mind so that we can be rid of pretense and hypocrisy, live an honest life until we meet Him face to face.



1 John 2:28-3:10 NKJV

The Children Of God

28 And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. **29** If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3** And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Sin and the Child of God

4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. **5** And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. **6** Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

7 Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. **8** He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. **9** Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.