

# Grace Notes

## μείνατε

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***“Abide in Me, and I in you; As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. John 15:4 (nasb)***

A couple of weeks ago I was outside trimming the hedges with my electric hedge trimmers. Oh, the power.....the convenience.....the downright fun of cutting through dense hedges, thick branches, and.....my extension cord.

The math is pretty simple: one set of electric trimmers minus a connection to the power supply equals absolutely nothing. I could've pressed the “on” button 1000 times and, 1000 times, I'd have gotten the same result: nothing.

But what if I'd done exactly that?....just stayed in my front yard pressing the “on” button over and over? Or, continued to “go through the motions” of trimming the hedges with a trimmer that wasn't even working due to being disconnected from its power supply? Pretty ridiculous, huh? But that's exactly what many believers do on a daily basis in regard to being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

When I began going to church in high school I was eventually partnered with a college student in our church who met with me weekly to disciple me and help me grow in Christ. The very first thing he taught me was how to have a daily time with God a.k.a. how to “abide in the Vine” by talking to God through prayer, reading & meditating on Scripture, memorizing Scripture, etc. “*A love relationship with God,*” writes Henry Blackaby, “*is more important than any other single factor in your life. Everything in your Christian life, everything about knowing Him and experiencing Him, everything about knowing His will, depends on the quality of your love relationship with God.*”

The word in the title, “μείνατε”, is simply the Greek word translated “abide” in John 15:4. Literally, it means “*to hold, to continue, to remain, to dwell.*” Jesus uses the word no less than *eight times* in this passage. The vine/branch parallel Jesus used was obvious to His agrarian audience: He, alone, is the source of truth, power, wisdom, endurance, faith, etc. And, just as a branch separated from its life-source cannot survive much less “bear fruit”, neither can we.

Has your life been somewhat off track? Do you lack wisdom and peace? Do you find your life bearing little fruit for God's Kingdom? It could simply be that somewhere along the way you “unplugged” from the Power Source. And, over time, you've forgotten that a daily, intimate connection to Jesus is absolutely vital to your spiritual growth and health.

“Abide in Me,” Jesus said, “*...for apart from Me you can do nothing.*”

***Soli Deo Gloria, Nick***

