



VERITAS IN PRAYER

Abiding in Christ

Inspired by the Parent Connections book study: Invitation to the Jesus Life

Father, only you are holy. For us, even as Believers in Jesus Christ, it takes us a lifetime of abiding in You to even somewhat resemble You. Even in our wretched state, you perfectly love us as we navigate through this world striving to be like you. We miss the mark; we come up short, and through it all, You are gentle with us. Often we strive for a perceived perfection that is just a counterfeit righteousness. Stir your Spirit in us that we sow authentic love, not a love that is self-seeking. A changed heart is Your Spirit's work in us. That is what we desire for our community at Veritas Academy. Not one of us reaches this perfection here, not our leaders, not our teachers, not our parents. Our students are just beginning their journeys. May we not forget that we are here as disciples, some on journeys further along than others. We pray that that as we are being sanctified that we show one another grace. Apart from you, we will not be sanctified. So we pray for ourselves as Believers. May we abide in the Vine. Being connected to the Vine, there is not a distinction between the Vine and the branch. (John 15:4-9) With division, a severing, there would be death of the branches. May this not be true of us. We stand against division between You, the Vine, and we, the branches. We stand against anything that sets us up against abiding with you: busyness, performance driven success, false idols. The list is endless. We proclaim that, as Believers at Veritas Academy, we will abide in You. In being connected to you, we will receive our nourishment in you, our source of life. As a result, we will embody the fruit of Your Spirit which comes from the Vine: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Scriptures References Concerning Abiding in Christ

John 15:4: “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 15:2: Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”

John 15:6: If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers, and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.”

John 15:10: If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.”

Spiritual Practices to Consider

“It's easy to do spiritual practices for the wrong reasons, especially to be a better Christian or to be holy. The goal of spiritual discipline is to help you connect with God-abide in Christ, live in terms of the Spirit. This union with God then transforms you into Christlikeness.” ~Jan Johnson, author of Invitation to the Jesus Life