



ABIDING.

BY CHAS. CULLIS.

“If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.”—John xv. 7.

I don't know anything more positive in statement than this. “If ye abide in Me,” just think of it! “If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.” There is only one qualification necessary, and that is that we shall abide, and so more and more we urge upon people the necessity of abiding in Christ. You know Christian people everywhere have lived the old life of abid-

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ing when things were well, or abiding when they had nothing particular to trouble them; but at the moment of temptation they yield to discouragement, and consequently have no light. Camp-meeting John Allen on the grounds at Intervale, in crossing a brook made a misstep. In his humorous way, he remarked: "I always said there was a possibility of falling." Now let us have this possibility of falling taken out of the way by ent're trust in Jesus Christ. "If ye abide in me!" "Well," some one says, "I think that I abide sometimes." I believe that we ought to abide in the Lord 365 days in the year. I am sure that it is not only a privilege, but an untold blessing to abide in God, and all the difficulty is taken out of the way when we fix our gaze upon Christ. I think it just as proper to say, "I love the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart," as it is to say, "I love my wife with all my

heart." Oh, that we might have such a simplicity that nothing should disturb the union between the heart and God! It is possible, but only possible when we love the Lord God according to the commandment. You know the commandments that belonged to the law, we have read them; but Christ said that there was a greater than these commandments of old, that you "love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself." Some one will say, "I wish I could abide in Christ." I will refer to the illustration again about the wife and husband. There would be a continued warfare at home if they did not abide in each other's love. And thus there is a warfare in the heart of God's people, until there is self-surrender; then there is no more struggling, but a union with God that brings a joyful liberty. "If ye abide in Me and My

words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." One says; "I have asked for a great many things and didn't get them." Did you abide? No. Abiding is not a conscious feeling always. I do not have to consult feelings as to whether I love my family, my children or not. The moment I think about it, my heart swells in praise and thanksgiving for them; I am abiding with them wherever they are; I am abiding in their love, and my purpose is to do for them more than I can do for myself. That is where we ought to be, and can be in Christ Jesus; with everything laid at His feet, and with the one desire to possess Him first, last, and always, more than anybody else under heaven.

And you know, beloved, the reason why prayer is not answered: it is simply because you don't abide; for God purposes to answer prayer, and gives us the promises that we may be-

lieve them and live upon them. But you say, "I don't believe in answer to prayer." God must answer prayer. His word is given. I have had no trouble for a good many years as to whether the matter is going to be a success when I preach, or when I talk, or anything of the kind. I give the whole matter to God, and believe that there will be victory and success in everything. Why? because He has said it, and I believe it, "My word shall not return unto Me void." If God says so, I will believe it, whether I see it or not. Don't be troubled as to whether you see the results or not, for results belong to God, and just as surely as you live today, if you abide in Him — if you do it — (He asks of you that you give yourself to Him, soul and body and spirit,) then you may ask what you will. It does not say you must ask for bread alone. You may ask for a coat, if you need it. I have proved this. "Ye

shall ask what ye will." All that we can possibly need, God gives to us. He only asks us to stay with Him, only asks us to live in His house, only asks us to walk with Him — asks us to live right along, day after day, in His mansion, with joy that the world cannot take from us, and gives us a blessing that is worth having. Who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord! People ask, "Well, Doctor, shall I give up the theatre? Can I go once in a while?" I could go more to the theatre than I could put my hand in the fire. I have no more desire or taste for these things than you have for tobacco. I could not do it. It is taken out. Well, don't you have any fun?" Yes, I have more than anybody else in this room. Yes, I do; no one else, even at home, that I am other than happy and jolly. I have had you before, that when I lived the life, I used to have blue spells; I

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didn't want to speak to anybody, and I would go along for three or four days and then brighten up and be happy, then I would go down again; but I haven't seen a dark day or hour for upwards of twenty years. "If ye abide, if ye abide, ye shall ask what ye will," and beloved, I am asking for big things now, and I am trusting Him for big things, and I want you to have the same trust. Don't be troubled if the dear ones are not converted, they will be; I mean not to be anxious about it. Lay them on the altar and He that gave His life will save them. Don't be troubled about this, that, or the other matter, but trust God; in other words, abide. Some one says: "If what you say is true, you need not ask for anything." But He says: "Ye shall ask." There is a wonderful comfort in asking. When you need anything, pray for it, expect an answer — just abide — for that is the true and only secret of

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living with God. Live with him every day and hour; in the church and in the prayer meeting. Do what He wants you to do, for that is abiding; praise God, that is abiding; anything and everything for God, that is abiding; and He says: "If ye do that, ye may ask what ye will, and it shall"—not perhaps—"SHALL BE DONE UNTO YOU." Who says it? The living God Himself; and I would not blot a sentence or a letter out of His word. Believe and ye shall have.

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