

RANKIN
WILBOURNE

UNION
WITH
CHRIST

The Way to Know and Enjoy God

Foreword by JOHN ORTBERG

Brief Review

Chapter 10 – A New Hope

What can I hope for?

What is a Christian's Hope?

In the Person & Work of Jesus

Where Jesus Now? | What is Jesus Doing?

Union with Christ

God is for us – work of Christ

God is with us – presence of Christ

Part III: What Problems Does It Solve?

UNION with Christ = New Identity

UNION with Christ = New Destiny

UNION with Christ = New Purpose

UNION with Christ = New Hope

Part IV: Union with Christ

Day by Day

Chapter 11: *The Art of Abiding*

Chapter 12: *The Means of Abiding*

Chapter 13: *The Secret of Abiding*

Chapter 14: *The Necessary Path of Abiding – Suffering*

Chapter 15: *Every Day – Union with the Cosmic Christ*

A Metaphor: Our Life with God



How do we labor to be brought near?

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
(James 4:8)

If it is all about Grace, what is our responsibility?

Key Points & Quotes

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning”

The Bible calls us to rest in Christ (Matt. 11:28) and, at the same time, to “strive to enter that rest” (Heb. 4:11)

“labour to be brought near”

“Let us therefore labor more to feel Christ living in us”

(John Calvin)

“Labor, therefore, to fill your hearts with the cross of Christ”

(John Owen)

“We should labour to be continually growing in divine love”

(Jonathan Edwards)

Making a Similar Mistake ...

Intellectual affirmation of the truth,
passively waiting upon the Promises of God,
wondering why we don't sense God's presence
or see His work in our life or the lives of others.

Do you want Christ enough to
labour to be brought near? (example)

What does it mean to “abide”?

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

An indicative & imperative

A reality & a command

What does it mean to “abide” in Christ?

John 15:1-17

First, union with our Lord depends on grace.

Second, union with Christ means being obedient to Him.

Third, union with Christ means that we know His love for us.

Finally, union with Christ means submitting to the Father’s “pruning”.

Taken from “In Christ Alone” by Sinclair Ferguson

A Metaphor: Our Life with God

Is God the one your heart most seeks?

Are you in the “boat”? Do you want to put effort into raising the sail?

You have said, “Seek my face.”

My heart says to you,

“your face, LORD, do I seek” (Ps 27:8)

“I want to know Christ” (Phil. 3:10)

Whatever your heart seeks most—that is your real god.

John 6:25-40

A Metaphor: Day by day reality



Basics of Abiding: Walking with God

A Metaphor: Day by day reality

Basics of Abiding: Walking with God

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so **walk** in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. (Col. 2:6-7)

Look carefully then how you **walk**, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Eph. 5:15-17)

So I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Gal. 5:16)

What is entailed in walking?

What is involved?



Basics of Abiding: Walking with God

Left & Right | Step by Step

Faith & Repentance

Lead Step = Faith

Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. And without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must **believe** that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.

(Heb. 11:1, 6)

Basics of Abiding: Walking with God

Left & Right | Step by Step

Faith & Repentance

Following Step = Repentance

If we **confess** our sins, he is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

On a daily basis, how does walking with God look?

Basics of Abiding: Walking with God

Faith
Believe
Trust

Repentance
Obedience
Dependence



The more you obey God, the more you will believe God.

And the more you believe God,
the more you will want to obey Him.

The Art of Abiding

Abiding, as with any art, requires practice & discipline to reach that point of freedom & enjoyment.

(pg. 223)