



ALIGN + ABIDE

*Preparing our hearts to walk
with the Lord in the Garden.*

*“Abide in me, and I in you.” John 15:4
We align our hearts as we abide in the Lord.
Ultimately, He is the One who aligns our hearts to His.*

We align our hearts as we abide in Him:

Adore Him and Adhere to His Word.

Believe Him and His Word.

Invest Your All in Him.

Depend On Him and His Love.

Exalt Him, His Name and His Word.

**Draw near to God. He will draw near to you.
Take these truths to heart and feed on them by faith with thanksgiving.**

John 15

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ 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. ⁵ 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. 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. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants,^[a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you on account of my name, because they do not know him who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin,^[b] but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ Whoever hates me hates my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works that no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin, but now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. ²⁵ But the word that is written in their Law must be fulfilled: 'They hated me without a cause.'²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. ²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

“Abide in me, and I in you.”

Heavenly Father and Lord Jesus, thank you for the love you convey to us so sweetly and so clearly. Thank you for calling us to yourself. I want to love and **ADORE** you and walk in sweet intimate communion with you in your love and care each and every day. Align my heart with yours. Because of my love and adoration for I long to **ADHERE** to your commands. I know that there is no separation between love and obedience. If I love you, I will obey your Word. May you be the center of my world. May you *be* my world. By your grace help me **BELIEVE** your Word and believe in you as I take your Word to heart. Make my heart rich, fertile soil as I follow your commands by your grace. Please plant the truth of your Word deep in the soil of my heart. Grant me the grace I need to **INVEST** my all in you. Show me how to do this. Not striving in efforts of my own, but by your Spirit before the throne. I want you to be my all in all. Show me how to **DEPEND** upon you, your love, your care, your provision, your will, your way, and your power — at all times and in all circumstances. In all my thoughts, all my words, all my pursuits, all my desires, I want to **EXALT** you and your Word above all. May you be my greatest thought, desire, passion, hope, and love and may that be seen by my loved ones, my neighbors, my co-workers, my church family, all those who come into contact with me — all for your glory and the gospel.

Just as Jesus said that He kept His Father’s commandments and that He abided in His love we want to do the same. This week take time to turn your hearts fully to your heavenly Father. Listen to Jesus’ words. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

THANK YOU FATHER, it is because of your mercy and grace that we are able to come before you this morning. Thank you for your love and for making a way for us to draw near to you in prayer. Thank you for not sparing your one and only Son and giving him up for us all. *“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”* 2 Cor. 5:21. **Father, our hearts are full of gratitude for our salvation in Christ. Thank you for loving us and bringing us near. Thank you:**

FATHER, ALL PRAISE BE TO YOU, GOD MOST HIGH

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

1. OUR FATHER:

Ephesians 1:3-10 [You are] “*the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as [you] chose us in [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before [you]. In love ⁵ [you] predestined us for adoption to [yourself] as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of [your] will, ⁶ to the praise of [your] glorious grace, with which [you have] blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷ In [Christ] we have redemption through [your] blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of [your] grace, ⁸ which [you] lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ making known to us the mystery of [your] will, according to [your] purpose, which [you] set forth in Christ ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in [Christ], things in heaven and things on earth.*

For reflection, meditation, and comfort take these truths to heart: He is Your Father, He Chose You, Adopted You, You are His Beloved, He is your Beloved, He Redeemed You, Blessed You in Christ with Every Spiritual Blessing, He Blessed Us in Christ with Every Spiritual Blessing, In Love He Predestined You, His Child, You are In Christ, and He is in you. **Your heavenly Father loves you. Believe in His love for you. Receive His love. Ask Him for His grace to love Him with your all.**

2. LORD MOST HIGH:

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;

let the many coastlands be glad!

² *Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;*

righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ *Fire goes before him*

and burns up his adversaries all around.

⁴ *His lightnings light up the world;*

the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ *The mountains melt like wax before the Lord,*

before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ *The heavens proclaim his righteousness,*

and all the peoples see his glory.

⁷ *All worshipers of images are put to shame,*

who make their boast in worthless idols;

worship him, all you gods!

⁸ *Zion hears and is glad,*

and the daughters of Judah rejoice,

because of your judgments, O Lord.

⁹ *For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth;*

you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ *O you who love the Lord, hate evil!*

He preserves the lives of his saints;

he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ *Light is sown for the righteous,*

and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² *Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,*

and give thanks to his holy name!

For reflection, meditation, and comfort, take these truths to heart: He Is Ruler, Master, King Of Kings, Owner, Holds All Control, Creator, Sovereign Lord, Almighty. His Works His Plan, His Way, According To His Will, At All Times. He Is Our All In All, His Kingdom Come, His Will Be Done. He Is Worthy Of All Worship. **You Can Be Secure and Safe in Him, He is Most High Over All the Earth, Honor Him, Worship Him, Revere Him, Rejoice in Him, Give Thanks to His Holy Name**

3. THE GOOD SHEPHERD:

Psalm 23:1-4 *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for the sake of His name. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

Hebrews 12:7-12

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Ponder these truths. Take them to heart and believe them by God’s grace: “He is *my* Shepherd, He will lead *me*, I Shall Not Want, I Need Fear No Evil, He Is With *Me*, He Guides *Me*, His Rod and Staff Comfort *Me*.” **You can Trust Him, Rest in Him, Depend Upon Him, Follow Him, He Loves You**

4. OUR SAVIOR:

Genesis 32:10 *I am unworthy of all the loving kindness, and all the faithfulness which you have shown to your servant.*

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Ephesians 2:1-10 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been*

saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ponder and praise. We are now alive in Christ! God's mercy. We have been saved! your salvation with a thankful heart. You have been forgiven. Christ took your sin upon Himself. Keep the gospel in the forefront of your mind. **Be grateful. Remember the gospel. Remember you have been forgiven.**

5. SERVANT:

Philippians 2:1-18

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Be of the same mind. In full accord. Obedient. All things without grumbling.

Aligning and Abiding 101 Questions

Do I believe and have I taken to heart that He is my Father and He loves me? Will I take time to meditate upon this...that I might truly abide in Him and in His love, and in His Word?

Do I believe that He is Lord, or do I feel as though things are in my hands or under my control? Is He Lord of All? Do I trust His ways? His timing? Do I see and understand that I am His?

Do I trust Him as my Shepherd? Do I humbly submit and trust Him and His ways? Can I rest in Him even as I am he is leading me through the valley of the shadow of death? Will I let go of control? Will I bring all things to Him and give them over to Him believing that He holds all the power?

Is He my Savior? Do I take the gospel to heart daily remembering that He died for my sin and walk in that forgiveness...remembering that He died for me and walk in humility and gratitude?

Do I see that my Lord is also the Servant of all, that He humbled Himself to the point of death on a cross? Will I humble myself? Will I ask the Lord to tenderly and graciously help me humble myself?

Notes, thoughts, and prayers from the Introductory Week of Homework