

**“He who dwells in the
secret place of the
Most High Shall
abide under the shadow
of the Almighty.”**

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Psalm 91:1

In John 15:4, Jesus affirmed, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”

In other words, if we’re to live to abide in Christ and follow Him as Lord, we must surrender to Him all aspects of our lives.

Why?

Psalm 145:18: “The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.”

Proverbs 8:34: “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.”

The very reason why we are encouraged to trust God in all circumstances, as Deut. 31:6 says, “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

Then, 2Peter 3:9 add: “The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

Psalm 23:4 then comforts and strengthens us saying, “Yea, 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.”

Do I understand the importance of drawing near to God?

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It is evident that we are the ones who must surrender our hearts to Christ and abide in Him, if we ever desire to enter His Kingdom.

Here's what Jesus said in John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Obviously, it all starts with Christ being the door to salvation. What follows must be to worship God through our lives, and as John 4:24 says, "God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Then, 2Chronicles 7:14 specifies the heart attitude we must have, saying: "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

What else must we commit to Christ?

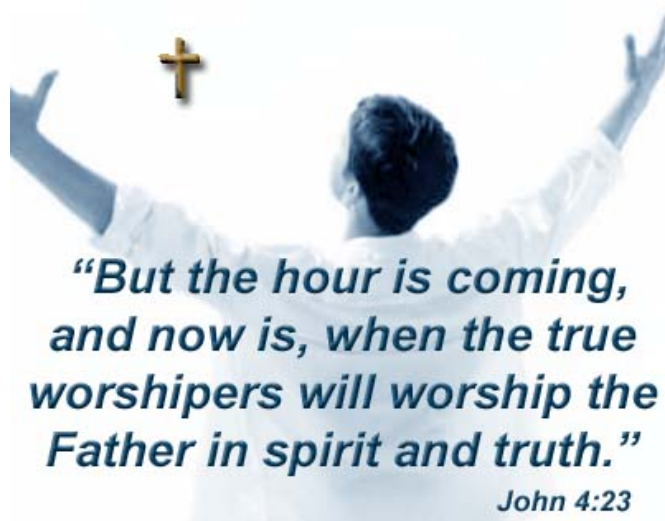
Psalms 37:5-6: "Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you. He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun."

Why?

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Does my life, right now, radiate Christ living in me?

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***“But the hour is coming,
and now is, when the true
worshippers will worship the
Father in spirit and truth.”***

John 4:23

God isn't interested in outward appearances, but rather in the disposition of our hearts. Here's what scripture says on this:

Jeremiah 29:13: “And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

Matthew 5:8: “Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

Evidently, our attitudes towards the Lord indicate whether we strive to live in His presence or not. What then should the disposition of our hearts be to draw near to God?

Psalms 25:4-5: “Show me Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You *are* the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.”

Psalms 27:4: “One *thing* I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”

Hebrews 10:22: “Let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him.”

How is that accomplished?

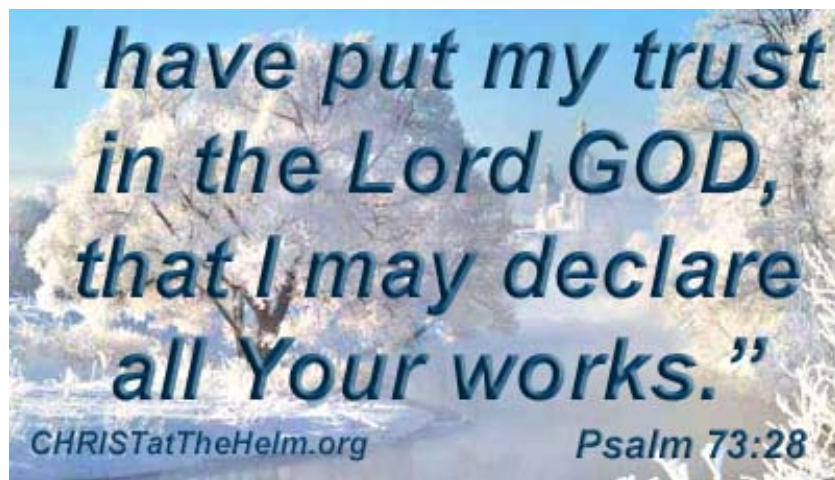
Psalms 119:105: “Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

How truthful, sincere and dedicated am I to seek to live in the presence of the Lord?

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Why must we seek the presence of God in all aspects of our lives?

Psalm 46:1: "God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Rev. 3:20: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Then Jesus said in John 14:26: "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

God's desire from us being:

Acts 1:8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

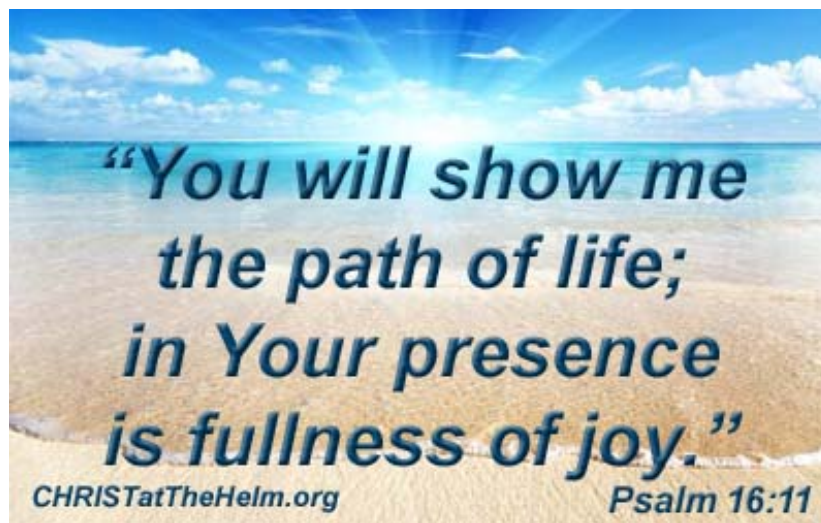
And the ultimate outcome will be:

John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

Rev. 21:3: "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God."

How evident is my witness for Christ?

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Can we expect blessings from seeking to live in the presence of the Lord?

Jeremiah 17:7-8: "Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."

Zephaniah 3:17: "The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet *you* with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear not, for I *am* with you; be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Deuteronomy 31:8: "And the LORD, He *is* the One who goes before you. He will be with you, He will not leave you nor forsake you; do not fear nor be dismayed."

Psalms 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me."

And to crown this, Jesus declared in John 6:57: "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

How steadfast am I to I feed on Christ, the Word of God?

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WHAT IF? In other words, what if we say we believe in Christ but continue to dwell in the lusts of the world?

Isaiah 59:2: "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden *His* face from you, so that He will not hear."

Proverbs 14:12: "There is a way *that seems* right to a man, but its end *is* the way of death."

Jonah 2:8: "Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own Mercy."

Hebrews 10:26: "For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins."

Why do some who know the truth forsake the Lord to follow deceiving false preachers?

2Tim 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."

How does one return to God?

Acts 3:19: "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

John 3:36: He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Whom will I believe? The Son of God, the Savior, or the sons of eternal damnation, the liars?

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