

ABIDING IN JESUS CHRIST

Zaloznykh V.M.¹, Volodchenkov M.I.²

¹Zaloznykh, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich — Independent Researcher
Gryazi, Lipetsk region.

²Volodchenkov, Mikhail Ivanovich — Independent Researcher
Voronezh

Abstract: *The article explores the theological theme—“Abiding in Jesus Christ”, and also provides an analysis of the verses of the Holy Scriptures of the New Testament—the Gospel of John (John 15:1-12), the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:41-42), the First Epistle of the Apostle John (1 John 3:6-9) and the First Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 15:1-4). The research is based on an analysis of certain chapters of the NKJV Study Bible. The result of the consideration is the main conclusion: to abide in Jesus Christ is to abide by faith in the teaching of His Apostles—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This study was conducted by the biblical method—“proof by the Scriptures”.*

Keywords: *Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments of the NKJV Study Bible; Scofield Reference Bible.*

UDC 226.5, 226.6, 227.94, 227.2

Special Abbreviations

f., ff. — following verse, following verses.

Quotes

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the NKJV Study Bible.

Introduction

The article explores the theological theme of “Abiding in Jesus Christ” and provides an analysis of New Testament Scripture verses, including the Gospel of John (John 15:1-12), Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:41-42), the First Epistle of John (1 John 3:6-9), and the First Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:1-4). The research is based on an analysis of certain chapters of the Old and New Testament Scriptures from the New King James Version of the Bible (the NKJV Study Bible). The study concludes with the main finding: to abide in Jesus Christ is to abide in faith in the teachings of His Apostles—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This research was conducted using the biblical method known as “proof by the Scriptures...” (Acts 18:28f) [10].

The presented work is thematically related to the authors' previous research [1-8].

God knows His children—those who believe in Jesus Christ and always follow His will. He knows them completely and continually cares for them, as convincingly demonstrated in the works [1-2].

God's forgiveness is available to all people, so every believer in Jesus Christ must accept God's forgiveness and forgive others, just as Christ forgave us, which is proven by the content of the works [3-4].

The Church of God will not be condemned because its members are the children of Jesus Christ (His sons and daughters). They do not come into judgment, but have passed from death to life-eternal life, as proven in the works of [5-6].

God always has a reward for serving the Lord—salvation and eternal life, which is proven by the content of the works [7-8].

This study differs from the article [12] in that it examines a different manuscript—the New King James Version of the Bible (Nelson's NKJV Study Bible, Second Edition). Additionally, the article and bibliography are edited exclusively for an English-speaking audience.

NKJV STUDY BIBLE

Let's explore what the New Testament says about abiding in the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (John 15:1-12)

The New Testament says a lot about abiding in Jesus Christ.

1) The Relationship of Believers to Christ

The Apostle John writes:

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 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. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 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. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ..." (John 15:1-12ff).

This call of Jesus Christ to believers—to abide in Him—is a commandment of God and the will of God for us, the believers of the New Testament.

2) The Apostle John, in the book of Revelation, reveals to us another of the names of the Lord Jesus Christ—this is the **"Word of God"**:

"He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God." (Rev. 19:13).

It is also known that the Holy Scripture—the Bible—is **the Word of God** because these are the words of the Lord Himself, recorded by the prophets and the Apostles of the New Testament:

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).

The **conclusion** follows from this.

To abide in Christ Jesus means to abide by faith in the teachings of His Apostles—the Holy Scriptures (the Bible—the Word of God).

2 THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (Acts 2:41-42)

It is important for us to know how these words of Jesus Christ about the abiding of believers in Him were fulfilled by the first Church—the Christians of the 1st centuries.

The book of the Bible, the Acts of the Apostles, talks about this in detail. When the Apostle Peter preached about Jesus Christ to the Jews, they came to repentance:

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.' And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation.' Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:36-42).

We can also draw a **conclusion** from this.

To abide in Christ means to abide in the Apostles' teaching, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

3 THE FIRST EPISTLE OF JOHN (1 John 3:6-9)

Let us define the terms **"sin"**:

"Sin—Various Hebrew and Greek words are translated **'sin'** with many shades of meaning. Theologically, *sin is the human condition of separation from God that arises from opposition to God's purposes. It may be breaking God's law, failing to do what God wills, or rebellion. It needs forgiveness by God."* [9, 260].

To sin means to continuously commit sin, to **"live in sin."** However, a believer, especially one who abides in Christ Jesus, cannot live in sin, because **the seed—the word of God—will not allow him to do so.**

1) The Apostle John in his First Epistle writes that **he who abides in Christ Jesus cannot sin at all.**

"Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God." (1 John 3:6-9).

The Apostle Peter also writes that **we are born of the word of God:**

"having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever." (1 Pet. 1:23).

2) The reason that a believer who abides in Christ Jesus cannot sin **is His seed, the Word of God, stored in the hearts of the believing children of God.**

The Apostle John writes about it like this:

"We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him." (1 John 5:18).

The Apostle Paul writes about this in his Epistle to the Romans:

"But what does it say? 'The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart' (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'" (Rom. 10:8-11).

That's why it's so important to keep your heart:

“Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.” (Prov. 4:23).

This leads to the following *conclusion*:

A believer abiding in Christ Jesus not only does not sin, but according to Scripture, he cannot sin at all, that is, live constantly in sin.

The Word of God, which lives in his heart by the Holy Spirit, will convict him if he stumbles in ignorance, and he will repent immediately.

4 THE FIRST EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS (1 Cor. 15:1-4)

The Apostle Paul gives a very important reminder to believers to abide in Jesus Christ:

*“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you **hold fast that word** which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...” (1 Cor. 15:1-4).*

Here, the Apostle Paul mentions an important word—“**hold fast.**” Indeed, we were taught the Apostles' doctrine from the very beginning when we believed—this is the Gospel. **If we abide in the Apostles' teaching**, which we have, then **we hold fast to it**, that is, we remain in this teaching—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If we do not hold fast to it, it means that for some reason we have left it and have been drawn to something else that seems more important to us than the simple Gospel. For example, if we are drawn to extraordinary revelations that are not in the Holy Scripture (the Bible), but only in some traditions and the like, then we no longer abide in the Apostles' teaching, because we do not keep the word that the Lord gave us from the very beginning, we do not hold fast to it (we do not fulfill it).

This leads to the following *conclusion*:

To abide in Jesus Christ is to abide in the Apostles' teaching, which we accepted at the very beginning when we believed in Him.

An interesting thought **about abiding in Jesus Christ** is expressed by the American Protestant theologian **Cyrus Ingerson Scofield** (1843–1921). In his *Reference Bible*, he writes:

“To abide in Christ is, on the one hand, to have no known sin unjudged and unconfessed, no interest into which He is not brought, no life which He cannot share. On the other hand, the abiding one takes all burdens to Him, and draws all wisdom, life and strength from Him. It is not unceasing consciousness of these things, and of Him, but that nothing is allowed in the life which separates from Him.” [11, 1136-1137].

5 THE RESULTS OF ABIDING IN JESUS CHRIST

Let's summarize the important results of what abiding in Jesus Christ gives to a believer.

- 1) By abiding in faith in Jesus Christ, the believer **fulfills the will of God**. (John 15:1-7).
- 2) The name of Jesus Christ is **the Word of God** (Rev. 19:13). Therefore, by abiding in Jesus Christ through faith, the believer abides in the Word of God (**the teaching of the Apostles**), and this is the fulfillment of God's will. (1 Tim. 4:16).
- 3) The believer is completely **“cleansed through the word of God,”** which he hears from the Lord. (John 15:3).
- 4) By the same word of God, the believer is also **sanctified**. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed to His Father and asked for **the sanctification** of His disciples whom He had chosen. (John 17:17).
- 5) **A believer cannot sin, because he has been reborn from the incorruptible seed—the word of God.** (1 John 3:6, 9).
- 6) A believer does the will of God by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, which is **God's work**. (John 6:29).
- 7) A believer **brings much fruit** to the Lord (for His glory). (John 15:5).
- 8) A believer keeps the commandments of Jesus Christ and receives answers to his prayers. (John 15:7-10).
- 9) The believer **abides in the love of God**, because it is said: **God is love**. (1 John 4:16).
- 10) The believer abides in **the order and obedience of the Church**, which is the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 12:27).
- 11) By abiding in Jesus Christ, the believer ascends to a new level—he becomes a perfect man, **“to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”** (Eph. 4:13).

This leads to an important *conclusion*:

God wants every person to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with a sincere heart, to know His forgiveness, love, and mercy, and by believing in Him, to have a personal relationship with the Lord (as with the Father)—eternal life in Christ Jesus—abided in Him.

CONCLUSION

Summarizing this research, we can draw the following important conclusions.

Analyzing some chapters of the Synodal Canonical Bible in the Russian translation, we have thoroughly examined and demonstrated the conditions of abiding in Jesus Christ by faith:

- 1) The Gospel According to John (**John 15:1-12**).
- 2) The Acts of the Apostles (**Acts 2:41-42**).
- 3) The First Epistle of John (**1 John 3:6-9**).
- 4) The First Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians (**1 Cor. 15:1-4**).

The main conclusion has been obtained and proven by the Scriptures:

To abide in Jesus Christ means to abide in faith in the teachings of His Apostles—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the Word of God.

References

1. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Rybolovlev M., Malchenko A., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2023). Gospod' znaet veruyushchikh v Nego [The Lord knows those who believe in Him]. Problemy nauki [Problems of Science]. 5 (79), 4-9. (In Russian). DOI 10.24411/2413-2101-2023-10501.
2. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Sinibabnov A., Rybolovlev M., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2024). The Lord knows those who believe in Him. Academy. 1 (77), 15-20. DOI 10.24411/2412-8236-2024-10101.
3. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Kukhtaev A., Malchenko A., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2024). Proshchenie Bozhie [God's Forgiveness]. Problemy nauki [Problems of science]. 1 (82), 35-41. (In Russian). DOI 10.24411/2413-2101-2024-10102.
4. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Kukhtaev A., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2024). God's Forgiveness. Academy. 3 (79), 16-22. DOI 10.24411/2412-8236-2024-10301.
5. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Massalitinov K., Malchenko A., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2023). Sudy Bozh'i [The Judgments of God]. Problemy nauki [Problems of science]. 6 (80), 9-14. DOI 10.24411/2413-2101-2023-10602.
6. Felonyuk O., Kazakov V., Massalitinov K., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2024). The Judgments of God. Academy. 3 (79), 22-27. DOI 10.24411/2412-8236-2024-10302.
7. Gruzdev D., Kolosov S., Volodchenkov M. and Kavinsky V. (2022). Nagrada za sluzhenie Gospodu [Reward for serving the Lord]. Problemy nauki [Problems of Science]. 5 (73), 50–55. (In Russian). DOI 10.24411/2413-2101-2022-10503.
8. Gruzdev D., Severov P., Kolosov S., Sinibabnov A., Kavinsky V. and Volodchenkov M. (2023). Reward for Serving the Lord. Academy. 1 (74), 61–68. DOI 10.24411/2412-8236-2023-10103.
9. McKim Donald K. (Ed). (1996). Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms. Louisville, Kentucky, KY: Westminster John Knox Press. 316 p.
10. Nelson's NKJV Study Bible, Second Edition. (2007). Earl D. Radmacher, general editor. 2nd ed. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. 2341 p.
11. Scofield C.I. (1917). The Scofield Reference Bible. The Holy Bible, Containing the Old and New Testaments. Authorized version. Edited by Rev. C.I. Scofield; Consulting editors Rev. Henry G. Weston [and others]. New York: Oxford University Press. 1414 p.
12. Zaloznykh V.M. and Volodchenkov M.I. (2024). Prebyvanie v Iisuse Khriste [Abiding in Jesus Christ]. Problemy nauki [Problems of Science], 4 (85), 67-72. (In Russian). DOI 10.24411/2413-2101-2024-10401.