



Links Players

Staying in the Sweet Spot: Abiding in Christ

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. (John 15:4, ESV)

Every golfer knows the unmistakable feel of a clean shot off the sweet spot — smooth, effortless, and powerful. That is the best feeling!

The ball launches straight and true, not because of brute force, but because of rhythm, balance, and staying connected through the swing. But when we grip too tightly, overthink, or try to muscle it, everything falls apart. The swing becomes tense, rushed, and disconnected.

Jesus tells us that the spiritual life works the same way. We don't produce fruit by trying harder or forcing results. We bear fruit by abiding in Him — by staying connected, dependent, and at rest in His love and faithfulness.

In John 15:1–11, often called the “Vine and Branches Discourse,” Jesus offers one of His most powerful teachings on what it means to live in deep, continual relationship with Him (I encourage you to read this entire passage today to grasp this teaching fully).

Two verses that stand out to me:

“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 does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” — John 15:1–2

“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.”— John 15:4

So, what does it mean to abide in Christ? To abide in Christ means to:

- Rest in Him—Staying fully dependent on Him, not yourself
- Stay in prayer—Even when you don't feel like it
- Trust His Word—Even above your emotions or circumstances
- Obey His Lead—Especially when it's uncomfortable
- Follow His Commands—Not out of pressure, but out of love
- Remain in His love—And let that love shape your joy, your actions, and your identity

Just like in golf, where a relaxed, trusting swing produces the best results—in your spiritual walk, resting in Christ produces fruit that only He can grow. He doesn't want your performance; He wants your connection. Your trust. Your heart.

And the results of that are these precious words that Jesus speaks to us, "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." — John 15:11

So, here is a little challenge for you: the next time you step up to the tee, or in your day. Pause and ask yourself:

- Am I striving in my own strength?
- Or am I abiding in Christ and letting Him live His life through me?

You don't have to force your swing or your own spiritual growth. All you need to do is stay close to the One who gives life. When you abide in Christ, He takes care of the fruit, and that is a great feeling, a true relief that Jesus does this for us when we abide in Him.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep me connected to You today. Teach me to abide in Your love, and not to rely on my own strength. Help me trust, not strive. Let Your life flow through mine. Amen.

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