

ABIDING BEFORE DOING

12•12•2025

JOHN 15:5

There's a truth I'm learning to live by: God works in me before He works through me.

At the start of a busy day, I often make my list and dive into it, hoping to accomplish something meaningful. Sometimes I even ask God to bless my list. But despite my efforts, I can find I've accomplished very little for his Kingdom.

Then there are days when I begin differently.

I spend time with Jesus.

Not to learn something new.

Not to ask for help.

But simply to be with Him.

It's the kind of presence that doesn't need anything. Like sitting quietly with a close friend, sharing space without words, and just being together.

On one of those mornings, Jesus gently reminded me: he is not only with me—he is in me, and I am in him.

As I carried that awareness into my day, I still worked through my list, but John 15:5 came alive. This time I saw fruit. Eternal fruit. Kingdom fruit.

“Apart from me you can do nothing.” This passage reminds me that Christ works in me before he works through me. Christ is my source of life and fruitfulness. Just as the branch draws nourishment from the vine, I draw everything I need from him. Even Jesus, while on Earth, did nothing apart from the Father—he did what the Father did, and he spoke only what he heard from his Father (John 5:19, John 14:10).

So, I'm learning to let Christ work in me—giving me his presence and peace—before I ask him to work through me. When I abide in him, I can bear much fruit for his Kingdom.

INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US FOR

Christmas

AT CEDAR SPRINGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

FAMILY SERVICE | 4PM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | 7 + 11PM

PRAYER

Lord, give me time with you today—not to get something, but simply to be with you. Help me love you and be loved by you. Let me know your presence and be present with you. May I find joy in you, and may you delight in my presence too. Let me be content in you as I walk through my day, and as I abide in you, use me to accomplish much for your Kingdom.



BY MARK STEIMER

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