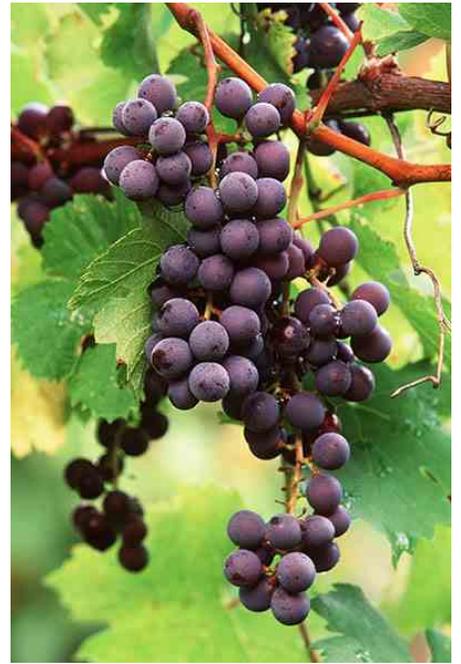


*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." John 15:4-6 KJV*



We have a mandate from Christ. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." That is; the work of "sowing the seed. The seed is the Word of God." Jesus is the "Word made flesh. The Word [is] God, God is a Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:" It is the seed that grows and bears fruit. When the "seed" falls into "good ground," that is, a receiving heart with hearing ears, it springs forth into everlasting life. "But as many as received Him (the Word), to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." Giving the Gospel to others is the same as giving "an answer...of the hope that is in you..." which is "Christ (God's Word) in you the hope of glory." We don't reproduce ourselves, God reproduces Himself. It is the seed, God's Word, which does the growing and reproduction. "For it is God (Jesus is God – God's Word made flesh) which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Believers are but the branches and branches are worthless unless they are part of "the Vine" producing fruit. You cannot produce seed unless you first produce fruit, because the seed is in the fruit. You cannot bear witness to facts you have not witnessed. Hearsay testimony is inadmissible in a court of law. For testimony to have any credence at all, it must be something actually witnessed. Abiding in Christ is faithful obedience to God's Word. His commands are His blessing. God's first blessing was a command. "Be fruitful and multiply." (Ge.1:28) Provision was already in place. Obedience is the pathway to provision. "Seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and ALL these things shall be added unto you." When you obey, you experience the fruits of obedience; God's provision. Then you are able to testify, give witness, God's Word is Truth, because you have proven it true in your own life. Jesus gave believers a blessing. "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." What is the benefit of obedience? "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." God is the Supreme Sovereign of all. If He is your friend, what else do you need?

You are no friend -cept you abide,  
In Jesus Christ who for you died,  
Obey the One with riven side,  
And ev'ry need will be supplied. ~CGP

Doubt is unbelief. It locks up the treasures of God's bounty for you. What doubt is it that prevents you from fully trusting and obeying? Faith is the "keys of the kingdom." Without God's bounty, to what are you witness? Abiding is obeying. Obedience is the path to stress free living.

*"If ye abide in me, and my Words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."  
John 15:7 KJV*