

Abiding in Me

(Preventing Spiritual Dry Rot)

Pastor Ron Susek

©Golden Quill Publications 1-15-12

Intro:

We are Promised

- **Peace** John 14:27 **ESV** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”
- **Joy** John 15:11 **ESV** “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- **Abundant life** John 10:10 **ESV** “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
- **Rivers of living water** John 7:38 **ESV** “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
- **Productivity** John 15:8 **ESV** “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Texts:

John 15:9-11 **ESV**

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. **Abide in my love.**

10 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.

11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

Note:

- **Abiding** in Christ holds **enormous possibilities.**
- It brings the **greatest sense of fulfillment and well-being** possible.
- **Today let's look at how we can go from Peace, Joy, an Abundant Life, Rivers of Living Water and Productivity to Dry Rot**

Jeremiah 13:1-11 ESV

1 Thus says the Lord to me, "Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water."

2 So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the Lord, and put it around my waist.

3 And the word of the Lord came to me a second time,

4 "Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock."

5 So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me.

6 And after many days the Lord said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there."

7 Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was good for nothing.

8 Then the word of the Lord came to me:

9 "Thus says the Lord: Even so will I spoil the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

10 This evil people, who refuse to hear my words, who stubbornly follow their own heart and have gone after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing.

11 For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

Notes:

➤ **God orchestrates circumstances** to reveal to us areas where we are not abiding.

➤ **Oswald Chambers** (My Utmost for His Highest / 1/13)

"When God gets us alone by affliction, heartbreak, or temptation, by disappointments, sickness, or by thwarted new friendship—when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are dumbfounded, and cannot ask one question, then He begins to expound. Watch Jesus Christ's training of the twelve. It was the disciples, not the crowd outside, who were perplexed.

"There are whole tracks of stubbornness and ignorance to be revealed by the Holy Spirit in each one of us, and it only can be done when Jesus gets us alone.

"Jesus can expound nothing until we get through all the noisy questions of the head and are alone with Him,"

➤ **Observations:**

- **Every circumstance of life offers an opportunity** for God to reveal something about **His perfections** or something about **our imperfections**.
 - Without this we would never grow.
- **VITAL: The more spiritually mature a person is the straighter God can reveal truth, not only truth about God, but truth about the person themselves.**

Let's Analyze What God Revealed to Israel in Jeremiah 13

1. God Will Set the Stage to Reveal Our Problem

Jeremiah 13:1-2

1 Thus says the Lord to me, "Go and buy a linen loincloth and put it around your waist, and do not dip it in water."

2 So I bought a loincloth according to the word of the Lord, and put it around my waist.

Notes

➤ **God knows how to make his point**

- Jeremiah was to perform an **object lesson**
 - God may arrange **illness** (Not all illness is a rebuke)
 - God may close an **opportunity**
 - God may bring **hardship**
 - God may **frustrate a desire**
 - God may lead a **friend** to speak truth that we don't want to hear
 - **Rebuked by Jerry** (ex marine)
- A wise person is ever watching and listening
- Fools call him a cruel God
- Fools endlessly self-justify themselves and attack the messenger
- **Example: Saul refused** to hear God's warnings sent through people and, instead, tried to **kill young David** and **cling to the throne** God had removed.

- **God does stop striving with people.** (God told Jeremiah to **stop praying.**)

2. **God Sets a Perfect Stage**

Jeremiah 13:3-4

3 And the word of the Lord came to me a second time,

4 "Take the **loincloth** that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the **Euphrates** and hide it there in a cleft of the **rock**."

5 So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the Lord commanded me.

Notes:

- **God is silent at times** (hides himself and life turns to darkness)
 - If we need more pain and suffering before we will hear
 - **Righteous people** are often the last to hear because they keep throwing up their goodness
 - **Example:** Job
- **When God is ready to speak**, he will be **abundantly clear**
 - He speaks when he is preparing to **judge our refusal to hear**
 - He speaks when we are **ready to hear**
- **Notice God's careful instruction** (Verse 4 "Take the loincloth that you have bought, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates and hide it there in a cleft of the rock.")
 - **Take note:**
 - It's a **loincloth**
 - It's hidden in the cleft of a **rock**
 - It's by the **Euphrates**
- **We will see why in a moment**

3. **Learn to read God's Illustrations**

Jeremiah 13:6-7

6 And after many days the Lord said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the loincloth that I commanded you to hide there."

7 Then I went to the Euphrates, and dug, and I took the loincloth from the place where I had hidden it. And behold, the loincloth was spoiled; it was **good for nothing**.

Notes:

- **God was clear:** the loincloth was **good for nothing**
 - **God seeks to expose and remove good for nothing** things from our lives.
 - **Not once** has God removed something of **eternal value**
 - **We bring great suffering** clinging to **idols of the heart** that compete with the true and living God.

4. Interpreting God's Illustrations

Jeremiah 13:8-11

8 Then the word of the Lord came to me:

9 "Thus says the Lord: Even so will I spoil the **pride** of Judah and the **great** pride of Jerusalem.

10 **This evil people, who refuse to hear my words**, who stubbornly follow their **own heart** and have **gone after other gods** to serve them and worship them, **shall be like this loincloth, which is good for nothing**.

11 For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

Notes:

➤ **Loincloth:** It's **how you dress and present yourself**

➤ **Israel was to be God's Loincloth**

11 For **as the loincloth clings** to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah **cling to me**, declares the Lord, **that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory**, but they would not listen.

➤ **What is God revealing?**

- We are to **cling to God by faith**
- We **cling as his people**
- We bear his **name**
- We are for his **praise and glory**

Call to Action

Three Divine Messages

1) Characteristic of Dry Rot Loincloth

- Dry Rotted cloth **looks perfectly good** until you pick it up
 - Falls apart / rips easily / powdery
 - A picture of a Dry Rotted saint

2) The Reason to hide it in the cleft of a rock

- Hardened hearts will not listen, and cannot detect the forming of the Dry Rot

3) The Reason to Hide it By the Euphrates

1. The Dry Rot occurred in a rock **beside the refreshing** waters of the Euphrates.
2. Saints can easily dry, rot and blow away alongside the **“rivers of living water”** Jesus promised.

Abiding Prevents Dry Rot and gains the Promises

Peace John 14:27 esv “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”

- **Peace** John 14:27 esv “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”
- **Joy** John 15:11 esv “These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”
- **Abundant life** John 10:10 esv “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”
- **Rivers of living water** John 7:38 esv “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”
- **Productivity** John 15:8 esv “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”
- The more mature we are in Christ the straighter God can reveal truth about the condition of our lives.

- Truth unmask our immaturity. Signs:
 - Get “hurt (actually angry)—easily offended
 - Turn away
 - Attack the messenger
 - Grow cold toward God
- Such people comfort themselves through the commiseration of other immature people. Herein they collectively become unreachable by God. All the while, God is striving to make them a people for his name, for his honor, glory and praise.