



GLOBAL GRACE NETWORK

GGN is a teaching resource for ministers and churches all over the world. We advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ - Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the Church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

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## Welcome to GGN!

The word “covenant” is key to our understanding of God. Before I understood God’s grace as I do today I used to think of a covenant as a contract. We are all familiar with various kinds of contracts, and they all involve benefits as well as dangers. If either party breaks the contract there is a strong possibility of conflicts and even lawsuits. A successful contract depends on equal parties that are all capable of living up to their responsibilities.

A covenant has nothing to do with a contract. It is the bestowal of God’s favour to us through Jesus Christ, not due to our ability to live up to a contracted obligation. Religion is all about contracts. If you do such and such, then God will respond in a commensurate way.

The Gospel on the other hand is grace freely given long before we ever responded to God, not due to any effort of our own, but simply contingent on Christ’s finished work 2000 years ago.

The church needs to discover the Gospel Covenant!

Once the church knows the Good News, the world will know it also.



Peter Youngren  
*President of GGN*



## REST IN JESUS - PART 3

By Pastor Mike Walker

**Many Christians are stressed-out, and Jesus’ rest may seem so far away. Is it really possible to enter into this rest that Jesus gave us?**

We, who are in this New Covenant that God has given us through Jesus Christ, have available to us the opportunity to live a restful, stress-free life with God. For many people this truth seems so far away because of the chaos in and around their lives. Jesus still brings peace to the storms of life. There is a genuine, tangible rest for the people of God! Unbelief brings stress and restlessness but believing in the finished work of Christ brings rest.

**Hebrews 4:1-4 – “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on**

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this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.”

## The Kingdom of Heaven is Ours

Our life with the Lord should be restful and not storm-tossed with the winds of adversity blowing us in all directions. We can live and operate in an atmosphere where we have ceased from our own works (Heb. 4:9) and know that every promise of God is ours because Christ fulfilled every requirement and sat down at God’s right hand. We can say with confidence that we know in whom we have believed and are persuaded that He is able to keep that which we have committed unto Him (2 Timothy 1:12).

The kingdom of heaven is ours through Christ – it has been given to us.

**2 Peter 1:3** – “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.” Our God is a good God and He has given us every good thing required for life and godliness through Christ Jesus. We have wisdom, peace, righteousness, and all the exceedingly precious promises in the Bible bestowed on us.

## Run the Race Without Getting Tired

**Hebrews 4:11** – “Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.” There are many stressed-out people in Christianity who have

failed to understand and grasp that when we have Jesus, we have everything! Jesus is with us every minute of every day and He is enough for our tomorrows and the future ahead of us. Some people need to have hands laid on them with a word of prophecy, but we need to believe in the Jesus in each of us – the one who will never leave or forsake us!

**Isaiah 40:29-31** – “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

There is a place where we can run the race set before us without getting tired and faint-hearted. In **1 Corinthians 15:10** Paul states that he “laboured more abundantly than they all” but it was the “**grace of God which was with me.**” His approach to ministry was in a place of rest where the work was enabled by the Lord. Jesus completed the “works which the Father hath given me to finish” (John 5:36). He said and did what the Father told and gave Him to do and rested on that reality. He knew the path the Father had for Him to follow and rested in the outcome of everything laid before Him.

## Yoked With the Lord

**Ephesians 2:10** – “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” We need to be going forward in the things that are prepared for us. We need to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and stay in the plan of the Father. Give everything we are and have to the Lord and He will guide us without the stress and indecisiveness of our own making. If we don’t have the assurance to move

ahead in a decision, don’t move! Jesus is Lord of our lives and we need to be listening to what He is saying.

**Matthew 11:28-30** – “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” The Christian life was intended to be a restful, stress-free life. There is no room for burnout in ministry and serving the

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Lord. When we are truly working for Jesus, we can never get burned-out because we are not operating in our own efforts. We are doing the work that the Lord has prepared for us; the work He has laid out for us. What a difference when we are yoked with the Lord – He is the one who pulls the heavy load, not us! This is the stress-free, abundant life that Jesus came to give. The answer to stress is this: Come and learn of me!



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# Abiding In Christ

By Steve McVey

## How it is that we are to “abide in Christ”

When I wrote my first book, *Grace Walk*, in 1995 there were things I said then that I’d say differently today. Things I think I could have made clearer. The topic of abiding in Christ is one of those subjects.

I wrote a lot in the book about the importance of abiding in Christ. My jumping off place for that was the words of Jesus in John 15:4 where Jesus said, “Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.” The metaphor Jesus used was the vine and the branches, with the point being that our only role is to “hang out” with Him and depend on Him to be the One who produces whatever fruit comes through our lives.

*He will show us when to act and what to do when it's time to do it.*

### The paradox

Over the past 15 years, many people have asked me exactly *how* it is that we are to “abide in Christ.” It’s a good question that deserves an answer. The paradox in telling people to abide in

Christ is that they may think there’s something they need *to do* for that to happen. The reason it’s a paradox is because the very idea of abiding in Christ moves us away from doing something to a place of rest, trusting that He’s the One who does what needs to be done.

Simply put, to abide in Christ means one thing: to relax and trust His indwelling Life to motivate and mobilize our actions. It means to know that it’s not up to us to make something happen. It means to trust Him and stop worrying about ourselves. In fact, it means to take our eyes off ourselves and just look at Him, knowing that there’s nothing we have to do and that He will show us when to act and what to do when it’s time to do it. It’s a life of rest.

The irony of it all is that we really can’t do anything but abide in Christ. After all, our very life is found in Him. So there’s a sense in which we abide at every moment no matter what. To be told to “abide” simply means to recognize the reality of our union with Him and to give up any silly notions we may have that we have anything to contribute to this arrangement.

### Fruit doesn’t struggle

Fruit on the vine doesn’t struggle to grow, to be tasty or anything else. It just hangs there and the nutrients from

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the earth come up through the vine into the branches and the fruit is the natural (actually, it’s supernatural) result. That’s how it is when we understand abiding in Jesus Christ.

Don’t sweat it. Just take your hands off your own life; off your circumstances and your challenges and your self effort and your attempt to navigate your present life and design your future. He has it all under control. So just relax and say, “thank you very much” and when you’ve done that, you are abiding in the active sense of the word.



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