

Lesson 7

Chapter 5 - *The Big "If"*

Note: I should specify before we begin this lesson that the concepts given herein apply to prayer as it is addressed in this passage. Because prayer is like a many faceted diamond, there are many Scriptures addressing other aspects from different perspectives. I would be remiss to infer that Scripture memorization is a prerequisite for the Lord's responding to our prayers. However, from this passage and from personal testimonies of many who memorize Scripture in its full context it is evident that our prayer life is significantly enhanced as we permit God's Word to permeate our thinking and our life, as we memorize His very Words and pray them back to Him.

Expounding on this passage Andrew Murray stated it this way: *"We must have (God's) words in us, taken up into our will and life, reproduced in our disposition and conduct. . . It is as the words of Christ enter our very heart, become our life and influence it, that our words will enter His heart and influence Him."* (from *With Christ in the School of Prayer*)

Now read Chapter 5 and let's examine the wonderfully exciting promise given to us in John 15.

1. a) Read John 15:1-8. What do you see as the theme of this passage?

b) What words or derivatives thereof are repeated many times in these 8 verses?

2. The word translated "remain" in the NIV and "live" in the Phillips Translation is the Greek word *meno*. What other translations can be applied to this word as mentioned in paragraph 5 on page 57 of *The Sword*? Read John 15:1-8 through several times applying a different synonym each time for a broader grasp.

3. What is your understanding of the phrase to "remain" or "live" in Jesus? Why do you think this would be required in order to claim the promise of verse 7?

4 a) In verses 1-6, Jesus focuses on the concept of our "*remaining in Him*". What is the condition in verse 7 that is added before He gives a very profound and wonderful promise to His disciples?

b) Why do you think this condition would be important?

5. "Ask for anything you want and I'll give it to you!" If you were to give this promise to your children, what conditions would you put on it?

6. Explain the relationship that exists between the *written* Word and Jesus, the *living* Word (John 1:1) .

7. According to John 15:8 what is the ultimate purpose of our prayers?

8. List the *fruit* mentioned in the Scriptures given below. (Include other Scripture passages with which you are familiar that might shed additional light.)

Romans 6:22 -

Galatians 5:22 -

Ephesians 5:8-9

Hebrews 12:11 -

9. In our goal-driven culture where production, accumulation of wealth, profit and image are everything, what is the good news of John 15:7, 8? What is God's measure of success in our lives?