

THE NEW WORLD OF TRUE DISCIPLES

THE TRANSFORMATIVE REALITY OF LIVING IN THE WORDS OF GOD ...



- **TRANSFORMATIVE:** CAUSING A MARKED CHANGE IN SOMEONE OR SOMETHING; CAUSING OR ABLE TO CAUSE AN IMPORTANT AND LASTING CHANGE IN SOMEONE; CAUSING A RADICAL AND TYPICALLY POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUTLOOK, CHARACTER, FORM, OR CONDITION.

JESUS SPOKE AND THE PHARISEES REPLIED ...

1. A true disciple follows Jesus and does not walk in darkness but has the light of life, 8:12-20.

- (John 8:12–20 ESV) **Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** 13 **So the Pharisees said to him,** “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” 14 Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. 16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. 17 In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. 18 I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” 19 They said to him therefore, **“Where is your Father?”** Jesus answered, **“You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”** 20 These words he spoke in the treasury, **as he taught in the temple;** but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

A. Previously Jesus had said the one who comes to him and drinks (who believes in him) would have rivers of living water flowing from his heart.

B. Now Jesus says that he is the light of the world and whoever follows him will not walk in darkness.

C. The one who follows Jesus and comes into the light encounters a seismic shift in perspective beyond human calculation.

- (John 3:21a ESV) **But whoever does what is true comes to the light.**

D. He now has the light of life in contrast to the darkness of death.

E. He has come to live in a supernatural environment in which the eternal light of God transforms his life and yields the fruit of eternal life.

J.C. Ryle ... The spiritual light that Christ gives is independent of time or place,—is not affected by sickness or death,—burns on forever, and cannot be quenched. He that has it shall feel light within his mind, heart, and conscience,—shall see light before him on the grave, death, and the world to come,—

shall have light shining round him, guiding him in his journey through life, and shall reflect light by his conduct, ways and conversation. [Ryle, J. C. (1878). *Expository Thoughts on John* (Vol. 2, pp. 79–80). Robert Carter & Brothers.]

F. Walking in the darkness of death results in fruit that ends in death and damnation.

- (Romans 6:20–21 ESV) **For when you were slaves of sin,** you were free in regard to righteousness. 21 **But what fruit were you getting at that time** from the things of which you are now ashamed? **For the end of those things is death.**

G. The person who has been set free from sin and is a slave of God is set apart (sanctified) from the way of death resulting in the fruit of eternal life.

- (Romans 6:22 ESV) **But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.**

H. Jesus and the Father who sent him bear witness that his testimony is true.

I. A true disciple believes Jesus' testimony and knows him and his Father.

JESUS SPOKE AGAIN AND THE JEWS REPLIED ...

2. Those who are not following Jesus will not be able to come to where he is when he goes away, 8:21-30.

- (John 8:21–29 ESV) **So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”** 22 **So the Jews said,** “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’” 23 He said to them, **“You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”** 25 **So they said to him,** “Who are you?” **Jesus said to them,** “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning. 26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.” 27 They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father. 28 **So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he,** and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me. 29 And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me

alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.”

- A. Jesus told the Pharisees and the Jews that he was going away to a place to which they cannot come.
- B. They would seek him but would die in their sins and be unable to come to where he was going.
- C. Jesus was going back to where he was from—above—and they could not come to where he was—above—because they were from below.
- D. Note the difference in Jesus’ relationship with those who truly believe that Jesus is “I Am”.

We will not die in our sins. We are not of this world. Our home is heaven above with Jesus. We not only will be able to go to where Jesus is but he is going to come get us and take us there.

- (John 14:2–4 ESV) In my Father’s house are many rooms. **If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.**

- E. The Jews would die in their sins and remain as those “below” unless they believed that Jesus is the eternally self-existent God - “I am he.”
- F. Sadly the Jews would not know that Jesus is — “I am he” — until they crucified him.

3. Many people believed in him during his dialogue with the Pharisees and the Jews, 8:30.

- (John 8:30 ESV) **As he was saying these things, many believed in him.**
- A. Jesus was speaking to the Jews, the Pharisees and anyone else in attendance at the feast.
- B. Some were moved in such a way that as he was saying these things they professed belief in him.

JESUS DIRECTED HIS WORDS TO THE JEWS WHO HAD IN SOME WAY ACKNOWLEDGED BELIEF IN HIM ...

4. Jesus stated his standard by which a person may know if he or she is truly his disciple—that person abides in his word, 8:31-32.

- (John 8:31–32 ESV) So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, **“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**
- A. To understand the standard that Jesus set forth we have to know what it means to abide in his word.
- B. So first we need to know what it means to abide.

Abide ... μένω (menō) ... to hold, abide, stay, endure in, remain; wait for, remain in a place or state expectantly and hopefully; continue to exist, remain in existence; keep on, continue in an activity or state, as an aspect of an action.

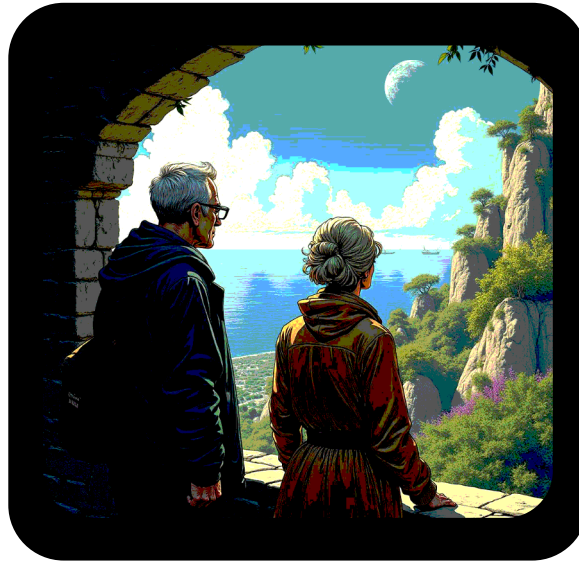
- C. To abide in his word means we live in his word and never leave his word—we bow in obedience to him in every area and circumstance of our lives.
- D. His word defines who we are and the realm of God and his kingdom in which we are to live.
- E. Abiding in his word is living in the light—the reality of God and his kingdom—and not walking in darkness.

It is **essential** that we understand the timing in what happens next and how very relevant that is to each of us. Jesus had just said – *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples”* ...

Here is what followed ...

5. The Jews at once opposed Jesus’ words, 8:33-34.

- (John 8:33–34 ESV) They answered him, **“We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”** 34 Jesus answered them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”**
- A. Jesus had just told them ... If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
- B. The Jews immediately rejected the idea that they needed to be freed from anyone and asserted that he was wrong about them.
- C. Their rebellion clearly demonstrated that they were not true disciples who abide in Jesus’ word.
- D. They exposed themselves when they spoke from their unbelieving hearts as slaves of sin who would die in their sins.
 - (Matthew 12:34, 36–37 ESV) You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ... 36 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, 37 for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.**
 - (Matthew 15:18 ESV) **But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.**



MEET THE PERSON WHO THRIVES IN THE TRANSFORMATIVE REALITY OF LIVING IN THE WORDS OF GOD ...

I. This person has been born into the kingdom of God by the transforming reality of the new birth.

- (John 3:3 ESV) Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**”

II. He is passionate in his desire to learn and walk in the ways of God.

- (Psalm 86:11 ESV) **Teach me your way**, O LORD, **that** I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.
- (Psalm 25:4–5 ESV) **Make me to know your ways**, O LORD; **teach me** your paths. 5 **Lead me** in your truth and **teach me**, for you are the God of my salvation; **for you I wait all the day long.**
- (Psalm 27:11 ESV) **Teach me your way**, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

III. She hears the love of God in the morning because she trusts God and is learning to do his will.

- (Psalm 143:8–10 ESV) **Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love**, for in you I trust. **Make me know the way I should go**, for to you I lift up my soul. 9 Deliver me from my

enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge. 10 **Teach me to do your will**, for you are my God! Let **your good Spirit lead me** on level ground!

IV. He desires for God to direct every aspect of his life.

- (Psalm 119:35–37 ESV) **Lead me** in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. 36 **Incline my heart** to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! 37 **Turn my eyes** from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.
- (Psalm 119:40 ESV) Behold, **I long for your precepts**; in your righteousness give me life!

V. She knows that she needs God to search her heart to speak to her the ways of pain in her life to remove those hindrances as God leads her in the way everlasting.

- (Psalm 139:23–24 ESV) **Search me**, O God, and **know** my heart! **Try me** and **know** my thoughts! 24 **And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!**

VI. This list is very incomplete ... the ocean of our new life in Jesus Christ is unfathomable ... the goodness of God to us through Jesus Christ is incalculable.