

PART 13 - WILDERNESS FOLLOWERS ABIDE IN CHRIST

Wilderness followers abide in Christ, while temple followers only incorporate Jesus into their lives.

There is a real difference between the follower who abides in Christ and the follower who has only incorporated Jesus into their life. One knows and has Christ as their literal source, while the other only knows Him as their resource. One can not know or have the Father as their source, until they have fully surrendered and wholeheartedly abandoned themselves to God.

What makes this so dynamic with incredible tension, is one can not surrender or abandon themselves to a God they don't really know. The beginning of this knowledge is receiving the revelation of how right He has made us in His Son.

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

To only know Christ as our resource, is to still have 'you' or 'self' as the source of your life, and this is a very limiting and crippling reality. Although one doesn't really know God or know how right they have been made in God, they can still use the gift He has given to see things happen in their lives and the lives of others. This position is very deceptive and one we must all be made aware of.

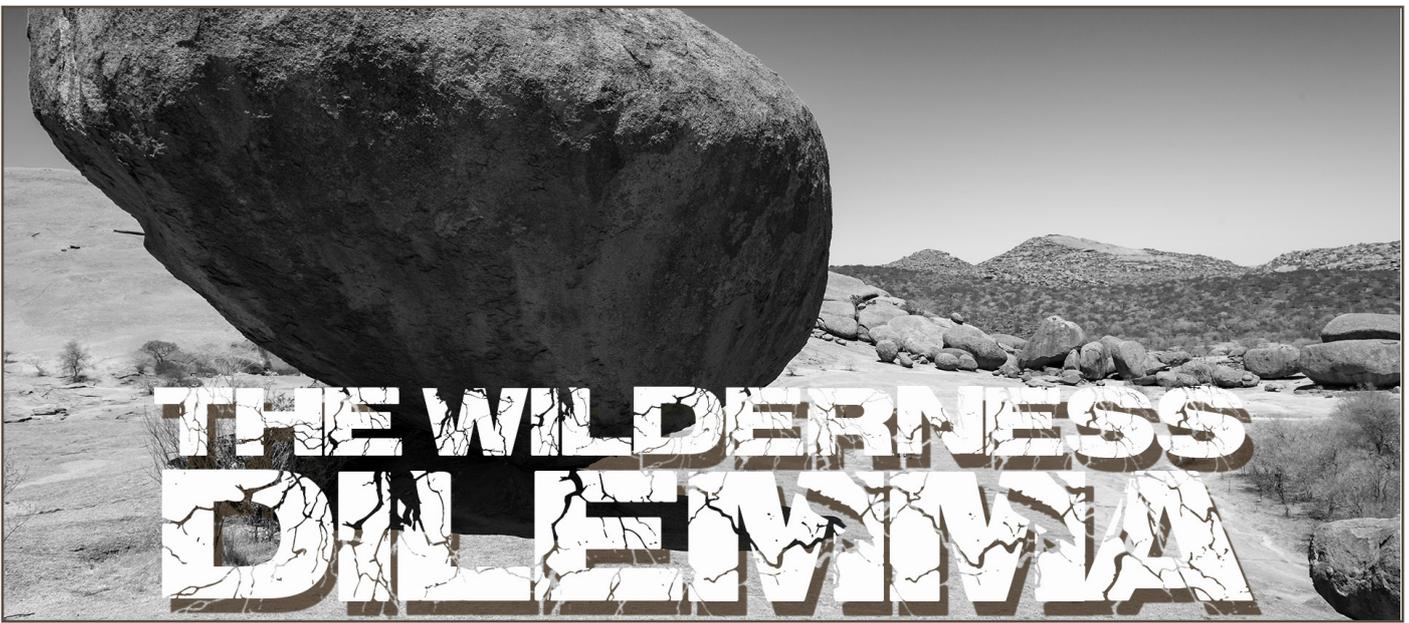
This becomes a problem because the pre-requisite for this abiding life in Christ, with God as your source, requires you to have lost your life and lost it for His sake.

John 12:23-26 And Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.

Matthew 10:39 He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.

So instead of operating from fellowship/oneness of Spirit with God, which is the outcome of abiding in the True Vine, you operate from gifting/function/outcomes, or what you are going to do for God. Instead of fellowship defining the function by faith and fruitfulness, the function is defined by the flesh.

We go from flesh to function directly and bypass the way of the abiding life in Christ. We also run the high risk of doing works which will be burnt up at our judgement seat, as they are not works of the Spirit,



but of the flesh.

If we have invited Christ into our lives for what He can do for us, then we have only incorporated Him into our lives and this position can not deny self. Only those who have lost their lives through divine grace or power, having this power of the Spirit working within them, can deny one's self, from the spirit of love.

This is the follower of the wilderness' posture and position in Christ, because God has become the source of this person's life.

This is the position which lives, moves and exists in Him

Acts 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.'

When one abides in Christ, as Acts 17:28 describes, a follower of Christ is able to fully love God and mankind the way God commands us to, because one has received and is receiving the all in-compassing and overwhelming life of the Spirit. This position also has coming forth from it, the predestined righteous works or acts of the Spirit.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is the abiding life in Christ so powerful?
2. Why is the incorporated position so dangerous to a follower of Christ?
3. Where would you say you are at within your relationship with Him?
4. What life does this position produce in us?
5. Why is it grace and grace alone which performs this work in us?