



#1



Abide in Christ: The Cleansed Life

What kind of people does God inhabit?

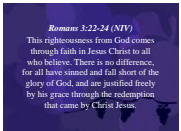
What kind of person does God use?

I want to know.

Where do we start?

What is it that God is working with?

#2



Romans 3:22-24 (NIV)
This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

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Each of us started from the same place.

Every one of us started as failures and sinners.

That is our background.

We have all fallen short of the glory of God.

What are the personal benefits of coming into fellowship with God?

#3



Abiding in Christ: The Cleansed Life
John 15:1-2 (Amplified New Testament)
I AM the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit.

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#4



In Bruce Wilkinson's book "Secrets of the Vine" he tells of those branches that are not producing fruit.

In Chapter 3 he visits with a man who owned a large vineyard in Southern California.



He said: “the new branch has a natural tendency to trail down and grow along the ground.” “But they don’t bear fruit down there. When the branches grow along the ground, the leaves get coated in dust. When it rains, they get muddy and mildewed. The branch becomes sick and useless.”

Bruce asked the man: “What do you do? Cut it off and throw it away?”

He said: “Oh, No!” The branch is much too valuable for that. We go through the vineyard with a bucket of water looking for those branches. We lift them up and wash them off. Then we wrap them around the trellis or tie them up. Pretty soon they are thriving.”

You need to see the wisdom and mercy of the Vinedresser.

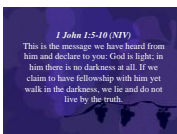
He knows the vine and the branch.

He knows the new branch and the old branch

He knows what we are and what we have been.

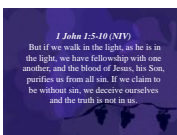
We need constant cleansing to maintain fellowship with God.

#5



1 John 1:5-10 (NIV) This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

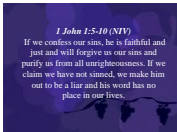
#6



But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.



#7



If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

#8



God has specific requirements for those vessels that He will use.

They must be cleansed and filled.

Sin will break fellowship with God and render us unfruitful and not useful for Christ.

If we sin, we must immediately confess it and repent over it.

It is not enough to empty our lives of things that are not pleasing to God.

We must let Him fill our lives with things that are pleasing to Him.

If you will be faithful and obedient, you must saturate yourself with Him.

Become a vessel for the Spirit of God.

Do you have any problems with sin?

Why are you having problems with sin?

Have you been saved?

What happened to you at salvation?

You were born again

You were brought into the family of God

All your old sins were forgiven

You were washed and cleansed

You were sanctified to God

You received the Holy Spirit into you

You received the fruit of the Spirit

You were made a new creature

#9





Here is the key for your life.

What did not happen when you were saved?

You did not receive a totally new body

That will happen at the rapture of the church

You did not lose the ability to sin

God left you with a free will

You did not lose the flesh

The flesh is still at enmity with God

The natural man will constantly be with us, with his tendencies to sin (1 John 1:8).

#10



Read: 2 Corinthians 4:7(NKJV) But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Why did God leave us with these weak vessels?

God wants you to walk by faith and trust Him to demonstrate His power in you.

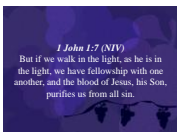
He is not interested in building self-sufficient, super-human vessels that do not need to trust in the Lord.

God wants to make you strong in the Lord.

He wants to make you productive in Christ.

Christ must be the Lord.

#11



1 John 1:7 (NIV) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

When we walk in fellowship with God, some positive things are going to happen within us.

Almighty God is working in you.

Romans 8:9 says "the Spirit of God dwells in you" and works



Galatians 5:22-23 says the fruit of the Spirit is in you and is manifested.

God wants to make you the personification of Christ in this world.

It is God's plan to grow His joy and peace in you.

He will develop His love and grace in you.

He will mature righteousness and holiness in you.

#11



Some of you may feel like your life has not been bearing fruit.

If you are one of those people —

You don't feel that joy or peace.

You don't live a life of self-control.

You haven't been living a life of love.

Jesus wants these things in your life, but they are just not there yet.

He is not ready to cut you off.

He is coming with a bucket of water.

You have been hanging down too long.

You have been impacted by your position.

He will clean that mud and mildew off you.

He will deal with those attitudes and assumptions that hold you back from fruitful living.

He will cleanse you and purify you.

Don't give up.

#12

Philippians 1:6(NLT) And I am sure that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on that day when Christ Jesus comes back again.



#13



God is ready to cleanse you right now.