

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

May 4, 2007

“Abide in me”—What is holding me back?—part III

6:00 – 6:05	<p>1) Coffee &amp; Donuts</p> <p>2) Opening Prayer</p>
6:05 – 6:25	<p>1) Abiding begins with obeying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Faith (my response to God’s gift; see Rom 12:3, James 2:1)</li> <li>b) Obedience (manifestation of my faith—God meets me here)</li> <li>c) Abiding (I in Jesus, then Jesus in me)</li> <li>d) Fruit (Transformed character, see Gal 5:22-23)</li> <li>e) Works (James)</li> </ul> <p>2) Obeying begins with the orientation of one’s heart.</p> <p><i>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. Jer 29:12-13</i></p> <p>“I instantly seized hold of this with my heart. I had intellectually believed the bible before; but had the truth been in my mind that faith was a voluntary trust instead of an intellectual state.”</p> <p>-Charles G. Finney, <i>Autobiography</i></p> <p>3) What is holding us back?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Here is what is promised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Anything for which we ask—Mt 7:7-11</li> <li>ii) Parable of the talents—Mt 25:15-30</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Are we still gripped by the world? <p><i>Don't love the world or anything that belongs to the world. If you love the world, you cannot love the Father. Our foolish pride comes from this world, and so do our selfish desires and our desire to have everything we see. None of this comes from the Father. The world and the desires it causes are disappearing. But if we obey God, we will live forever. 1Jn 2:15-17 CEV</i></p> <p>“Just at this moment [as I prayed] I again thought I heard someone approach me, and I opened my eyes to see whether it were so. But right there the revelation of my pride of heart, as the great difficulty that stood in the way, was distinctly shown to me. An overwhelming sense of my wickedness in being ashamed to have a human being see me on my knees before God took</p> </li> </ul>

such powerful possession of me that I cried at the top of my voice and exclaimed that I would not leave that place if all the men on earth and all the devils in hell surround me. 'What!' I said, 'such a degraded sinner I am, on my knees confessing my sins to the great and holy God; and ashamed to have any human being, and a sinner like myself, find me on my knees endeavoring to make my peace with my offended God!' The sin appeared awful, infinite. It broke me down before the Lord."

-Charles G. Finney, *Autobiography*

4) What Jesus says:

*So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. Mt 10:32-33*

5) Do we not fully understand with our hearts what God has forgiven in us?

*And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven--for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little." Lk 7:40-47 ESV*

6:25 – 7:00	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) How did your dual challenge go this week? [1) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 min in meditation, 5 min in prayer; 2) praying with your family]?</li>   <li>2) Jesus gives us a “heart test.” For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mk 6:21).       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What are your treasures?</li>   <li>b) Where are they?</li> </ol> </li>   <li>3) Paul tells us to test ourselves (2Cor 13:5). How should we conduct such a test?</li>   <li>4) What does Peter’s admonition to “be diligent” mean to you?</li>   <li>5) Are you abiding in Jesus? What is the evidence?</li>   <li>6) What is preventing you from having a greater indwelling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)?</li> </ol>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- McCall, Larry E. *Walking Like Jesus Did*
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of the Disciplines*
- Hybels, Bill. *Too Busy Not To Pray*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*
- Kaiser, Walter C., et al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*
- Finney, Charles G. *Autobiography*