

John 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Analysis

Jesus promises 'If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you' (ean meinate en emoi kai ta rhemata mou en hymin meine), establishing two conditions: believers abiding in Christ and Christ's words abiding in them. The rhemata (words/sayings) indicates specific teachings retained and treasured. The astounding promise: 'ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you' (ho ean thelete aitesasthe kai geneetai hymin). This seems to offer unlimited prayer power. However, the conditions qualify it profoundly - those abiding in Christ and saturated with His words will pray according to His will. Their desires become aligned with His purposes. The verse teaches that abiding transforms desires, so prayers reflect divine will rather than selfish ambition. It's not that God grants anything; it's that abiding believers ask rightly.

Historical Context

Early church practiced lectio divina (divine reading) - meditative Scripture absorption - understanding that Christ's words abiding in believers shapes prayer. Monastic Hours rhythmically saturated participants with Scripture, fulfilling 'my words abide in you.' Reformers emphasized Scripture as means of grace - not magical but transformative, shaping believers' minds toward God's will. Puritan devotional practice combined Scripture memorization, meditation, and prayer, recognizing that biblical saturation enables effective prayer. Modern neglect of Scripture memorization correlates with ineffective prayer - without Christ's words shaping desires, prayers remain self-centered. This verse provides balance to

'name it and claim it' theology - unlimited prayer access is real, but only for those whose desires are transformed through abiding. The verse has sustained believers through persecution - those whose minds are saturated with Christ's promises pray with confidence even in suffering.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does having Christ's words abide in us transform our prayers from wishful thinking to alignment with divine purposes?
2. What is the relationship between abiding in Christ and having His words abide in us - are they distinct or inseparable?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν	μείνη	ἐν	ἐμοὶ	καὶ	τὰ	ῥήματά	μου	ἐν	ὑμῖν
If	abide	in	me	and	^{G3588}	words	my	in	unto you
G1437	G3306	G1722	G1698	G2532		G4487	G3450	G1722	G5213
μείνη	ὃ	ἐὰν	θέλητε	αἰτήσεσθε	καὶ	γενήσεται	ὑμῖν		
abide	what	If	ye will	ye shall ask	and	it shall be done	unto you		
G3306	G3739	G1437	G2309	G154	G2532	G1096	G5213		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:4 (Parallel theme): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

1 John 5:14 (Parallel theme): And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

John 14:13 (Parallel theme): And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

1 John 3:22 (Word): And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Matthew 7:7 (Parallel theme): Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

John 16:23 (Parallel theme): And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Galatians 5:16 (Parallel theme): This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Jeremiah 15:16 (Word): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.