



Abide to Decide

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Eternally Speaking Now

I faced several weighty decisions this summer. With each situation, I initially **didn't know** what to do. After **prayer** and waiting, more **prayer** and more waiting, the **answers** still **didn't come**.

As a general rule, I tend to say,
When in doubt, wait.
So, I continued to **pray** and **wait**.

As deadlines to decide rapidly approached, **stress** and **angst** knocked at my door. Why were the **answers unclear**? There was a lot at stake. The decisions, like tumbling dominoes, had the potential to affect many other people and events.

Not wanting to walk outside of God's will,
I sought **godly counsel** and amped up my **Bible study**.

Soon thereafter, it's like the choices just **revealed** themselves. **Answers** suddenly **appeared**. What a **relief**. I immediately did what Jesus showed me, with **peace** and **confirmations** following closely at my heels. *Whew!*

*The longer I have walked with God,
the more I have realized that
I don't have to make any **decisions**.
I need only **discover**
what my Daddy already **decided**.*

This may sound extreme, but it's true. It's a principle that is evident in both Scripture and also my own life.

Years back, as a new believer in Christ, I stood at a crossroad between two job opportunities. I did the classic Pros & Cons list

that I'd been used to doing, but this time, for the first time, I wanted **Jesus** to be in the center of my decision-making. I was no longer 'in charge' (and I'd finally learned that I didn't want to be).

To get **guidance**, I made an appointment with a pastor. Hope and anticipation overwhelmed me as I drove to the church. Certainly God would tell the man of God which position I should take.

During the meeting, I grew increasingly **frustrated**.
The pastor *wasn't* telling me which career was best.
Didn't he have insider information?
Didn't he have a special line to the Almighty?
Maybe, but he kept steering the conversation away from my
vocation and towards...*John 15*.

As I opened my Bible and followed along, I was left even more **confused** by all the talk about **vines** and **branches** and **being pruned** and **bearing fruit**. What did this have to do with my **critical, life-changing, urgent, future-determining** decision?

When we (or shall I say *he*) finished, the pastor sent me home with a video to watch. I couldn't believe it. **No answers**; just a **perplexing** set of Scriptures and some old VHS movie.

Disappointed, impatient, and seemingly farther away from decision than when I'd walked in, I left the church, drove home, and resigned to viewing the video.

It was slow-moving, with no one speaking-- only background instrumental music, accompanied by dated pictures of...yup, you guessed it: **vines and branches**.

All the while, the words of Jesus written in John 15
gently rolled across the screen:

**"Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself,
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you,
unless you abide in Me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
He who abides in Me, and I in him,
bears much fruit;
for without Me you can do nothing."
John 15:4-5**

Consider a **branch** that has been **separated** from its **vine**, that thinks it can still **produce** something on its own.

How ridiculous. Doesn't it know it will **die**, if **broken** from its **source of nourishment**? Yes, it's silly to refer to a **branch** that can think, but it's even more **absurd** that we, who can be foolish **branches** ourselves, often fall for the same **lie**.

What began as a cheesy movie,
a supposedly **pointless** production,
concluded with tears streaming down my face that day.
The Lord used **His Word** in a humble video to teach me a
timely, life-directing, profound, eternally-impacting lesson:

Just Abide.
God will Decide.

After I watched that old video, I determined to **zealously read the Bible and fervently pray** through John 15. Shortly after that, something **amazing** happened. I **woke up** one morning (about the time when both job offers needed a reply) and **knew** which position to accept and which to decline. *I just knew.*

No question, no uncertainty.

Complete **clarity**. God **answered!**

That decision turned out to be **fruitful for years to come.**

**"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,
you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.
By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;
so you will be My disciples."**

John 15:7-8

CHALLENGE

Knowing God and surrendering to His will is absolute freedom. We don't have to **decide** anything.

*Just **discover** what God has already **decided**.*

Here are three of many verses that reveal how the Lord has everything already figured out for us. He is an awesome Father, and we can trust Him!

**"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in Your book they all were written,
the days fashioned for me,
when as yet there were none of them." Psalm 139:16**

**"For we are His workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10**

**"And He has made from one blood every nation of men
to dwell on all the face of the earth, and
has determined their preappointed times
and the boundaries of their dwellings,
so that they should seek the Lord,
in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him,
though He is not far from each one of us,
for in Him we live and move and have our being..."
Acts 17:26-28a**

Abide means to dwell, remain, 'stay overnight.' Indeed, when we abide in God, life is more like **discovering our Father's decisions for us**, rather than having to make decisions **ON OUR OWN.**

Now that's a great way to live.

**Determine today to discover
what God has already decided for you.
Abide to decide.**