

**'Abide' = To dwell, to rest, to lodge...  
...to stay overnight**



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## **ABIDING**

*Jesus said, "Abide in Me, and I in you." John 15:4a*

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I recall a particular day when my 'mama antenna' kicked into gear. I'd noticed a few things about our four year old son: he was whining a lot, he'd break down fast when his toys 'wouldn't work', his appetite was all over the map, and he'd been complaining about 'owies' inside his legs.

**Yup, you guessed it-- growth spurt.**

On the evening when I finally pieced everything together and realized this, he called out after he'd already been tucked in. He was **wailing** intensely, due to the sharp 'leg owies'. I **rubbed** his feet and legs, used a **warm** compress and **soothing** lotion, and **prayed** out loud over his body. He was beside himself, so I settled on the last resort and gave him a little Tylenol.

He continued to **cry**, saying it really **hurt**.

*Flashes of **fear** flew through my mind, questioning my diagnosis, driving me to pray against some rare disease I didn't know about.*

I crawled up into his bed and **snuggled**, waiting...waiting...  
for my prayers and the Tylenol to work.  
*I didn't want my **little guy** to **ache** anymore.*

I continued to **pray** for him, saying,  
*'I'm sorry, honey. There isn't anything else I can do.'*

There I was, telling my son I couldn't do anything more. I'd done all I could, and he just had to wait. I felt **helpless**. I wanted to take his **discomfort** away! But I also knew he was overtired, his **misery** was **temporary**, and it would dissipate within a short while.

In light of all the **suffering** in the world,  
my son's growth-spurt-**pain** was small in comparison.

*I knew that, but he didn't.*

So I laid there with him and he with me,  
**staying together through the pain.**

And here's the big God-moment: Suddenly the Lord broke through my son's **cries** and overtook my heart with His **soothing** Presence.

*In the flash of a second,  
it was as if my vision had moved above the bed,  
looking down, seeing  
not just my boy and me together in his pain, but also  
my heavenly Father and me together in mine.*

Then the Holy Spirit whispered:  
"Little daughter,  
this is what *I* do with *you* when *you* **abide** in *Me*."

One of the root words for **abide** in the Bible is  
'*to stay overnight*'.

This word's meaning also carries with it a sense of *permanence--*  
**to rest, lodge, remain, endure; to continue staying.**

As we **abide** in Jesus, and He in us, He **stays overnight**—  
and **continues staying** through the next night, and the next...

Sometimes the **disappointments** of life have to happen—  
we don't know why, *but He does*.  
To me, they seem to last forever while I'm experiencing them,  
*but He knows they are temporary.*

Within 15 minutes, my **little boy** fell asleep.  
All was quiet, all was peaceful.  
By morning he'd forgotten all about it.  
And I'd had the honor of **staying** with him through the pain.  
**Like Jesus does with us.**

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Challenge:

I often sleep with my Bible,  
as a tangible reminder of the choice to **abide** in God 'overnight.'

*With whom will you sleep tonight?*

*"He who **dwells** in the secret place of the Most High shall **abide** under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1*

Are you experiencing your own 'growth pains'?  
Will you **dwell in God** through it all,  
**'staying overnight'** under His shadow?

If so, He has promised to **stay** with you, too.

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