

# THE PATHWAY TO SEE GOD'S GLORY

JOHN 15:7-8

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - JUNE 8, 2025

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## SCRIPTURE READING

*John 15:7-8*

*If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.*

## ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Share about a time when you had to trust someone completely in a scary or uncertain situation. What made you decide to trust them?

## SERMON RECAP

- **The Invitation to Abide:** Jesus invites us not just to believe in him theoretically, but to walk with him in reality—to “change our permanent address” and make our home in him.
- **Prayer as the Pathway:** Prayer is how we experience the glory of God and commune with him. Like the disciples who saw something powerful in Jesus’ prayer life, we’re called to learn this intimate conversation with our heavenly Father.
- **The Problem of Counterfeit Gods:** We’re all abiding in something, whether it’s cultural pathways to glory (honor in Eastern culture, power in African culture, or autonomy in Western culture) that ultimately lead to shame, fear, or loneliness and anxiety.
- **Transformed Desires Through God’s Promises:** True prayer isn’t about getting more stuff from God, but about our desires being transformed by his desires as we pray according to his 8,810 promises in Scripture.
- **The Tightrope Illustration:** Like Charles Blondin carrying his manager across Niagara Falls, Jesus invites us to stop striving and simply hold on to Him as He carries us across the great chasm of sin and death to share in His glory.

### **Observation: What does the passage say?**

1. In John 15:7-8, what are the two conditions Jesus gives for answered prayer? What does it mean for Jesus’ words to “abide in you”?
2. According to verse 8, what is the ultimate purpose of answered prayer and bearing fruit? How does this connect to God’s glory rather than our own benefit?

### **Interpretation: What does the passage mean?**

1. Pastor Alphonse emphasized that “abide” means to “change your permanent address.” What’s the difference between visiting Jesus occasionally versus making him your permanent dwelling place?
2. How does the promise “ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” work together with the condition of abiding in Christ and his words abiding in us? Why isn’t this a blank check for getting anything we want?
3. What does it mean that “by this my Father is glorified”? How does our fruit-bearing bring glory to God rather than to ourselves?

### **Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?**

1. Pastor Alphonse said we’re all abiding in something. Where do you turn first when you’re stressed, afraid, or seeking comfort? What “counterfeit gods” might you be abiding in instead of Christ?
2. The sermon mentioned that Scripture contains 8,810 promises from God. Think of a current struggle or concern in your life. What specific promise from God’s Word could you pray back to him about this situation? How might praying His promises change your prayers?
3. Like the tightrope illustration, Jesus calls us to stop striving and simply hold on. What area of your life do you need to stop trying to control or achieve on your own and instead trust Jesus to carry you through? What would it look like practically to “just hold on” in that situation this week?