

Keys To A Faithful Life

John 15:1-5

I. Bearing Fruit → The Key To Living

- Fruit the Christian bears:

- Shaping a Christ-like character → Gal. 5:22-23; I Pet. 1:8-11
- Singing, praising God and giving thanks → Heb. 13:15; Phil. 4:6-7
- Sharing with those in need → Rom. 15:28; Acts 20:35
- Souls converted to Christ → Rom. 1:13; Prov. 11:28; III Jn. 4

II. Abiding → The Key To Fruit Bearing

- The word “abide” in Jn. 15:4-10:

- We must abide in Him, and He in us, to bear fruit.
- Apart from Him, we can do nothing

- We derive strength by “abiding” in him.

- Paul tells us what the power in Christ meant in his own life → Phil. 4:13
- He wanted others to know of the power available to them → Eph. 1:18-20; 3:20

III. Obeying → The Key To Abiding

- Submitting to the commandments of Jesus:

- By keeping His commands we abide in His love → Jn. 15:10
- By keeping His commands we will be His friends → Jn. 15:14
- By keeping His commandments we abide in Him → I Jn. 3:24

- Characterized Jesus' relationship with His Father while on earth:

- He kept His Father's commandments, and so abided in His love → Jn. 15:10; Jn. 4:34; 5:30

- And should govern our conduct as Christians as well:

- We abide in Christ by keeping His commandments → I Jn. 2:3-6; Phil. 2:12
- Otherwise we are liars if we profess to know Him and do not keep His word!

IV. Loving → The Key To Obeying

- He appeals to our sense of love → Jn. 14:15,23

- He knows that without love our obedience will falter → Jn. 14:24

- The secret to consistent obedience is loving!

- Those who obey because they have to or need to will never be consistent.
- Once they meet their feeling of necessity, they cease to be obedient.
- As an example, take the command to assemble → Heb. 10:25
 - Those who obey only because they feel they have to or need to will assemble as little as it takes to save their conscience.
 - Those who obey because they want to, out of love for Jesus and their brethren, will assemble at every opportunity.

V. Knowledge → The Key To Love

- Evident in other relationships:

- Love between husband and wife is based upon knowledge and understanding.
- Strong friendships are also based upon knowing each other well.
- Brethren who love one another are those who have made the effort to know each other.

- The more we know about Jesus, the greater for him our love:

- Especially as we grow in understanding His love for us → Jn. 15:13; I Jn. 3:16
- We are more likely to walk in love, if we know His love for us → Eph. 5:2
- Increase our knowledge of Jesus, then, and our love for Jesus will increase.

VI. **Learning → The Key To Knowing**

- Again, this is self-evident in our human relationships:
 - Where there is communication, relationships grow.
 - Where there is none, relationships flounder
- Even more so in our relationship with God:
 - The more we communicate, the better we know.
 - And how does Jesus communicate with us?
 - Through His Word! → **The source for Jesus' words is the Bible.**
- The more we read study and listen to the word of God, the better we know Jesus.
 - By reading, studying, listening to the word of God, we come to know.
 - By knowing we come to love.
 - By loving we come to obey.
 - By obeying we come to abide.
 - By abiding we come to bear fruit.
 - By bearing fruit we live the life of a faithful Christian.