

Abiding with Jesus to Fuel Your Prayer Life

“He that dwells with God in Christ Jesus is the man whose steps are enlarged in intercession.” Charles H. Spurgeon.

I came across this sentence in the book *A 12-Month Guide to Better Prayer*. I've started working through this book/study, and am currently in Chapter 2, which emphasizes how important it is to your **prayer** life to abide or remain in Christ. I'm intrigued by that term and have been praying about how I might do this. The term *abiding* comes from the Greek word *meno*, which can mean “to sojourn, tarry, not to depart, to continue, to be present.” All of these things take time, don't they?



Now, I'm a big believer in “arrow” prayers. I generally pray throughout my day as the Holy Spirit brings people and causes to my heart. But I'm being convicted of the importance of spending time with Jesus each day when I am silent, just listening to Him and waiting on Him. This takes time—time that I don't always get up early enough to spend.

I usually read my Bible and pray from my prayer list in the morning, but contemplative waiting and listening often get short shrift in my rush to get out the door to work. But if I want to be effective in my **prayers**, then I need to take the time to hear from the heart of the One who answers prayers. After all, bearing fruit—including fruitful prayers—involves being grafted into the vine.

So, one of my resolutions this year is to take at least 10 minutes each day before I begin **praying** to be quiet before the

Lord and then see how that affects my prayers. Maybe I'll be directed to pray in a certain way. Perhaps He'll bring people to mind that hadn't been on my radar. Or maybe, I'll just be mindful of the silence. Either way, I'm looking forward to seeing how this time will change my prayers and me. I'll keep you updated.

How about you? How are you going to “enlarge your steps in **intercession**” this year? Are you going to change anything related to your prayer life in 2013? If you'd like, you can share your ideas below.

Blessings for the New Year and pray on!

A stylized, light blue cursive signature that reads "Jane". The letters are elegant and flowing, with a soft, ethereal quality.

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