LYRICAL DEVOTIONAL · DAY 186

How Jesus Lives in You

> *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you?*
> **JOHN 15:7**

Written by Bill Perkins

In the verses before this,
the movement flowed one way-
you remain in Him,
you remain in His love,
you remain by keeping His commands.

But here Jesus
reverses the direction.

Not you remaining in Him,
but His words
remaining in you.

And this matters more than you may realize.

Because you can try to remain in Jesus
with all your strength and still feel
your desires wander,
your fears rise,
your thoughts drift,
your prayers lose focus.

You may not know this about Jesus,
but He lives in you through His words.

His words enter your mind.
His words settle in your heart.
His words stay where thoughts form
and desires grow.

This is not you holding on to Jesus.
This is Jesus entering you
and holding you through His words.

Because His words
shape what you desire (Ps 37:4),
steady what you fear (Ps 56:3-4),
correct what misleads you (2 Tim 3:16),
cleanse what clings to you (Jn 15:3).

His words
become the place
your prayers begin (Jn 15:7).

Because prayer doesn't start
with what you want,
but with what He says.

"If My words abide in you."
Jesus is telling you that the prayers God answers
are the prayers His words inspire.

The disciples learned this slowly.
They heard His words
before they understood them.
They remembered His words
before they obeyed them.
They carried His words
before they proclaimed them.

And after the resurrection,
His words became
their courage,
their clarity,
their compass,
their strength.

His words remained in them.

And because His words remained,
their prayers were shaped by His heart.

This is the invitation-
to let His words take over,
until what you desire is what He desires,
and what you ask is what He delights to give.

Where do I need His words to remain in me
more deeply?

My desires shift. His words focus them.
My thoughts wander. His words anchor them.
My prayers drift. His words align them.

Father, today I choose to let the words of Jesus
remain in my heart and mind.
As I place His words within me,
let them remain so my life and my prayers
are aligned with Your will.
In Jesus' name, Amen.