

## My 2026 New Year's Resolution — *Abide in Yeshua*

*<sup>7</sup>If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you (Jo. 15:7, TLV)...<sup>8</sup>If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. <sup>9</sup>(Jo. 15:7, KJV)*

The year 2025 is coming very soon, in fact it is imminently upon us. Have you thought about your *new year's resolutions*? What should we consider doing in this pivotal new year? In this coming year, at the deepest level possible, we should ask: *Am I abiding in You, Yeshua*? How well am *I abiding in You*?

The fifteenth chapter of the Gospel of John details *Yeshua's* concept of love – His love and His Father's love. Our Savior said that we are to keep His commandments the same way that He kept His Father's commandments so we can abide in His love:

*<sup>9</sup>"Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you. Abide in My love! <sup>10</sup>If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. <sup>11</sup>These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be full. <sup>12</sup>"This is My commandment, that you love one another just as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this: that he lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>"I am no longer calling you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. Now I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>"You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I selected you so that you would go and produce fruit, and your fruit would remain. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. <sup>17</sup>"These things I command you, so that you may love one another" (John 15:9-17).*

What does it mean to *Abide in His Love*? As a transitive, verb abide means: (1) to bear patiently: tolerate; (2) to endure without yielding: withstand, (3) to wait for: await, and (4) to accept without objection. As an intransitive verb, abide means (1) to remain stable or fixed in a state and (2) to sojourn. Abide has abided in the English language since before the 12th century. Today, the expression abide by, which means *to accept and be guided by (something)*, is also common. Related terms include abiding, meaning *continuing for a long time* or *not changing* (as in *an abiding friendship*). Abidance is *continuance* or *the act or process of doing what you have been asked or ordered to do*. According to Merriam-Webster abide in the Bible is used as it is defined at the first intransitive sense: *to remain stable or fixed in a state*. In the phrase *abide in me, Yeshua* is asking his followers to stay *constant in their relationship to Him*. In summary, abide implies endurance which is continuing firm or resolute through trials and difficulties and suggests acceptance without resistance or protest.

Are we staying *constant in our relationship with Him*? If even a little bit of this abiding is not happening we need (like the Ephesus Congregation) to repent and do the first works again (*"<sup>5</sup>Remember then from where you have fallen. Repent and do the deeds you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your menorah from its place—unless you repent" [Revelation 2:5]*). Believers love the Scripture: *"<sup>4</sup>Delight yourself in Adonai, and He will give you the requests (desires) of your heart" (Ps. 37:4)*. But it is easy for humans to focus on the *desires of my heart* part instead of in the *delight yourself in Adonai* part, which is, in fact, a prerequisite. Are you delighting in the Lord today? Are you delighting in the Lord right now? Are we concerned about Him: His feelings, His agenda, His commandments, His abundant life, His reputation, His character, or His desires for us as we are about our feelings, our agenda, our freedom, our life, our reputation, or our character? Is what I want dominating? I confess that I find myself at times weak and uncoussed and lacking in *agape love* (genuine love) toward Him. I serve Him, I work for Him, I obey Him, I

do His bidding, I strive to live a true Messianic lifestyle, but do I really *delight in Him*? Perhaps if we *delight* more we would also have more of the desires of our hearts fulfilled. Clearly *I need to delight more*.

What does it mean to do the first works again? I believe that speaks of the times when we first came to *Him*. What great days were those days! For many of you that became Believers after living in sin for a while, I am sure you remember those first days as living in a bliss. For me, internally I was changed and it showed. My life changed, my attitudes changed, everything inside changed, and yes, I loved Him so! However, for many that have been Believers a lot of your life or for you that came to the Lord in early childhood, there was perhaps no *drastic* change in belief, attitudes and lifestyle. Maybe you did not have much of an opportunity to live a sinner's life. And maybe for you the first-love years were not as pronounced. Regardless, we are all to return and repent and rededicate ourselves to first *Love Him*, second *Love Him*, and third *Love Him* with *endurance* and *commitment*. What a difference will such a commitment make! It will literally bring about *Life, and Life more abundant!*

If you have not made your *New Year's Resolutions* yet, then let us make some at least one today, even now. We can make it our priority and your *New Year's Resolution* to *Love Adonai our God and His Son Yeshua with all our heart, soul, mind and strength!* I can't imagine anything more important than making *Him the center of our universe*. If our *delight in Him* increases then *His delight* in you and in *Congregation Kol Simcha* will also increase. When we abide (stay) in His Love, then He will give us the desires of our hearts and we will be fulfilled. Even so, come *Lord Yeshua, Amen and Amen! Shabbat Shalom!*