



# ABIDE

## LESSON SEVEN: DEPENDENT LIVING

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In Paul's final remarks to Titus that outlined his responsibility of supervising the churches on the island of Crete he wrote, *"As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see they have everything they need. Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all."* - Titus 3:12-15.

Galatians 6:9 tells us, *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* And 1 John 2:6 instructs us, *"Whoever claims to live in Him must live as Jesus did."* Likewise, 1 John 2:9 states, *"Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness."*

What Paul is telling us is Christian love is a choice, not a feeling. We can choose to help people and treat them respectfully regardless of how we may feel toward them.

So, why is it so hard for people to accept help or for us to accept it ourselves? In essence, God's way is counter-cultural to what we have been conditioned to believe in our society. I mean, how many times have we been told to put our chin up or to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps?

Perhaps it is because the word dependent and dependence often time has a negative meaning associated with it in our culture. After all, our society celebrates and values independence. We even have a federal holiday that allows us to celebrate Independence Day which commemorates our break from Great Britain when the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. An act of high treason, by the way, during that time in history. You may have seen a funny meme that circulated on social media some time ago that showed a picture of a dog with no owner in sight. The dog was harnessed for a walk and held his own leash in his mouth as he crossed the street. The caption below the picture read, *"I'm a strong independent dog who don't need no man."* Isn't this how we want others to view us, strong and independent? Think back to a time when someone asked you if you needed any help. Was your response to decline and say you have everything under control?

Can you reflect about a time when perhaps you really did need some assistance? Would you have benefited from someone praying for you? Would you have appreciated an email, text, or phone call while you were dealing with a difficult time?

What does a life dependent on God look like? First and foremost, it is submitting to His statutes, the Ten Commandments. Secondly, it is establishing and keeping a Quiet Time with the Lord. Lastly, it is living a life in prayer and walking with the Holy Spirit, wherever He may lead. Exodus 20:1-3 records, *"And God spoke all these words: 'I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the*

