



Some-things or No-things

By Dan Camp, eEncourager

"Without Me, you can do nothing" (NKJV). I trust this will encourage you as you reflect on John 15:5.

There are "Some-things" and there are "No-things." Some-things are things from the Father, things that find their source in Him. No-things are things from the flesh. The world and the devil are also filled with no-things. Here, in John 15, Jesus is teaching us about what His plan is for managing our outcomes.

A No-thing is what we get - in every case - without Jesus.
A Some-thing is what we get - in every case - with Jesus.

A No-thing says, "NO" to God, but "Yes" to our flesh.
A Some-thing says, "Yes!" to God and "NO!" to our flesh.

No-things line up with our flesh, self, or self-life.
Some-things line up with walking *in* and by Christ in us.

Most of the fathers of the Grace movement have identified the flesh as a core issue. But this is neither understood, nor taught well in the malnourished, misguided, modern church.

As we "decide to abide" in Christ, He lives His life in, for, and through us. The decision is entirely up to us, a choice we make in the continuous stream of our existence down here, and the only real "striving fight" we must fight (which is between our ears [Hebrews 4:11]). The results are Some-things, things of our Father, and things which honor / glorify Jesus and build up the Body of Christ.

When the Door of Abiding* swings the other way (by our choice, our volition), the flesh produces all kinds of No-things - some good and some evil - but none *with* Christ, *in* Christ, *by* Christ, or *from* Christ. Paul called these "wood, hay, and stubble" (1 Cor. 3:12, KJV). They will go up in smoke. No-things count for nothing.

It is hard to wrap our thinkers around these important truths about Grace, but the Scriptures make it clear that our flesh is not our BFF (best friend forever). It cannot be mixed or made to befriend Christ in us; its help is never needed or wanted; and ALL that comes from it (whether moral, practically good, or evil), dishonors God and His Christ and His Kingdom.

The only things that really make a difference in God's economy are Some-things. And there is only one Way to make Some-things happen...by choosing to abide. The result of abiding is much fruit or Some-things, God-things.

The question arises, "Does God use No-things?" There are many "good people" who do "relative good" in the world, some at considerable "self-sacrifice." What happens to all of their

good and well-intended deeds (and ours) without Christ? By definition, those things are No-things, done without God, and outside of the design of man.

But God can do anything He wants to do, as all things are His, all of which are HIS concern. Our concern is the main thing, which is deciding to let Jesus abide in us, and deciding every day to abide in Him.

Abiding is not a "Do" on the believer's list of activities, requirements, or works; it is a "Be." Abiding is a direct result of our new "default setting" as new creatures IN Christ. Abide means "to live, to stay, to dwell, to remain." We do not have to "Do" anything to enjoy and live out of our new identity in "the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus." Therefore, Some-things are the direct result of Being, not of Doing, and though there are some really amazing "counterfeit Some-things" out there, the real thing is, *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord!*" (Zechariah 4:6, NKJV).

Flesh detection, as opposed to fruit inspection, will always unmask fakes by HOW they were produced. The modern church has not been taught HOW the authentic, abundant, victorious Christian Life works. Entering the flesh with its myriad attempts to conjure up Some-thing without Jesus - IMPOSSIBLE!

We are not "supposed to" go out and do for God, like most of us were mis-taught. Because of the wonderful Cross, we have been changed! We are now *IN CHRIST* and *HIS LIFE IN US* produces Some-things effortlessly, as we rely on Him to live through us. It used to be natural for us to sin; now it is natural for us to "commit righteousness" without even trying – *IF*, we decide to abide.

Thank You, Father, that You're always "up to Some-things" *in* and *through* us! And *FOR* us, too!

Personalizing Colossians 3:2 (from the Amplified® version) helps me so much. "Set your mind, and keep it set... Set your mind, and keep it set... Set your mind, and keep it set..." I am convinced that the primary "battle" is between our ears (Hebrews 4:11).

A young friend of ours, who is learning Grace, recently hit a curb and tore a hole in the sidewall of her expensive car tire. She prayed, "Father, I am in Christ and Christ is in me. What is Your pleasure?" He told her to call me. I prayed, "Father, I am in Christ and Christ is in me. What is Your pleasure?" He told me to go and install her spare. Early on a very cold morning, I took my tools and changed the flat for the spare. When I found out that she had not been able to afford a replacement tire and was still driving around on the spare, I prayed, "Father, I am in Christ and Christ is in me. What is Your pleasure?" He told me to call a particular local tire company and share the need with them. The manager replied immediately, "Mr. Camp, thank you for your past business and thank you for telling us about this situation. Bring the car in and we'll take care of it for her no charge."

Even the best flesh can only produce things that are No-things.

Abiding produces Some-things, Jesus things, Jesus through us things, glorious things!

Real prayer assumes that Father is a step ahead of us, waiting on us, waiting with Some-things in mind and in store. The prayer that leads to the Some-things of the Living Lord of Life, Who lives in us, is this:

"I am in You and You are in me. What is Your pleasure?"

Abide, ask, listen, and get ready for Him to do **exploits** through you!

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