

I'm Robin Marie

If you haven't heard my story I'd like to invite you to go back to episodes 8 - 11  
Welcome to Chasing Different.

Teach me to abide Jesus, teach me to abide. Tears flowed out as I repeated these words over and over.

Abide: (of a feeling or memory) continue without fading or being lost.

I struggle to abide in everything much less in the Word of God. My mind wanders and I end up scanning my phone or grabbing a book other than my Bible.

I'm lost in the things of this earth. I'm fading into my own feelings and memories.

Today as I focused on the truth behind it all, my eyes were opened once again.

Listen in.

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In the book of Ezekiel chapter 20 the prophet was told to tell God's rebellious people the Israelites to purge their idols and turn back to Him. They had followed their own hearts and desires and there had to be consequences. After all God is a good judge along with a good father. As I read the story of yet another time where God's people rejected Him and he once again gave them mercy in spite of their sin, I was convicted by this verse.

Verse 17

"For their hearts were devoted to their idols."

What is an idol?

I used to think I was in the clear when it came to idols after all, I didn't worship pagan gods or wooden objects. But listen to this definition of what an idol is.

Anything on which we set our affections; that to which we indulge an excessive and sinful attachment.

Wow! I did have idols, lots of them!

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Idolizing: Loving or revering to an excess, bordering on adoration.

“Holy Spirit, Show me my idols ,” I cried once again.

“People,” the Holy Spirit whispered. “ You are idolizing people, Robin. Their opinions matter more to you than mine.”

I can tell when I’m worshiping my idols. I get anxious and tired.

I had been loving and revering people above God. They were my idols. I keep sweeping them under the rug. I keep hiding them in corners hoping no one would see.

But God sees them and He wants them gone.

My heart wants to devote itself to people. God wants me to devote my heart to him.

Why is it such a struggle?

I’d like to share again from my journal.

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The memory of a laugh, a kind word, a touch, a smile, brings warmth to my heart and sinks deeply into my soul. Why is it that people have such power over me? Why do I run to them before I run to God? They have become my idols.

How many times will I go around the same mountain? How many times will I aimlessly wander into the fields of thorns and weeds? Do I not know who I am? I belong to God. He is mine and I

Once again I choose Him. I choose to surrender. It is then that His love and forgiveness begins to flow over me and washes the dirt of idolatry away.

He promises to remember his covenant of grace to me. He promises new mercy every morning for His glory, not mine.

I am an unclean vessel filled with the lust of the world yet yearning to be emptied and poured out into you Lord Jesus. Your touch is what I need; your smile brings joy to this broken child. It is for You that my heart pounds with anticipation and yearning. I want to worship you alone.

In the stillness of the morning I listen, my true love speaks. He begins to sing over me with a voice that pulls me into His embrace. His touch is like no other and His eyes are always on me.

I will run to the lover of my soul for it is in doing so that my mind will begin to follow.

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I sit with my devotional open and weep. I am stuck by how much I do want to abide because when I lay down the idols of my own heart, and focus on God, He gives me peace.

I don't know about you, but I need peace these days. Peace of mind, peace in the midst of troubles and sickness and uncertainty. People cannot give me that. The idols I migrate to are only human and don't have that kind of power. That power comes from God.

So let me leave you with this famous verse. I'm sure you've heard it many times but this time I'm asking you to listen with a new set of ears. Make it personal. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you your idols and to help you focus on what is true.

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Philippians 4:8

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

Verse 9 says "practice these things and the God of peace will be with you."

Just like I practice reaching out to people and listening to them I need to do that with God first. He promises that if I do, he will give me peace of mind.

And that's a promise I can take to the bank because God always makes good on his promises. He is faithful.

So today, I urge you to ABIDE. Read a verse or chapter in your Bible (Romans & Hebrews are two of my favorite books). Meditate on a worship song or even a secular song that turns your heart toward God. Make a mental list or a paper list of the things you have to be thankful for. Even the littlest thing counts. Turn off the news and turn on the Word of God. Binge Jesus instead of Netflects.

Tear down your idols. You won't regret it.

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Thanks for listening.

I'd love to connect with you. I'd love to hear your story. You can find me on Instagram @robinmarie59 and on my website at [www.robinmarie.org](http://www.robinmarie.org) where you will find transcripts of this podcast and my children's podcast "Different Isn't Bad"

Until next time remember, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.  
practice these things and the God of peace will be with you.

See you next time.