

Entering into God’s Rest

Part 3 of 3

Our Here-and-Now Battles are Won in Jesus—This is Our Rest! Jesus Gives Us Victory over Sin and Death—We Enter His Rest!

“God’s promise of entering His rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.... So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.” — Hebrews 4:1-3

Hebrews chapter 4 continues the warning from chapter 3 against unbelief and disobedience. The Apostle Paul urges believers not to miss God’s promised “rest” the way the ancient Israelites did in the wilderness. It warns that hearing God’s word is not enough; it must be united with genuine faith and action because God’s eyes expose all thoughts and motives. The book of James adds, “...*show me your faith by your works.*” So, the natural mind wants to argue, “Which is it, rest or works?”

Resting in God might seem to infer that there is nothing for you to do if God has done it all for you. Resting in God does not mean hitting the lounge and tuning-out God’s plans and purposes for your life. This is a flesh-derived dichotomy. In God’s kingdom, works and rest exist side-by-side. The word “rest” is used as a verb as well as a noun. It is possible in God’s Kingdom to work vigorously in His will and still be at rest.

A good example of this vigorous work alongside rest is found in John 19:25, saying this about Jesus, “*It is finished! and bowing His head He gave up His Spirit.*” Jesus did not rest from His labors here on the earth until He finished the work God gave Him to do. It is the same with the true believer today. What God desires most in us, His Bride, His church, His people, is faith in Him. Of all the attributes, good characteristics, and morality that we can have in our life, what God desires the most and pleases Him the greatest is faith and obedience. He looks throughout the whole earth searching for someone who will take Him at His Word, and who has a good opinion of Him.

Both Mary and Sarah took God at His Word, had a good opinion of Him, and depended on His strength to bring about what He promised. It is the same with us. We take Him at His Word and enter His rest. The works that God has for us to do will not be accomplished in our strength but by His mighty hand—this is our rest!

God’s **LOVE** — produces **FAITH** — compels **OBEDIENCE** — we enter His **REST**

God’s Spirit alive in you knows the tremendous value of what God has done for you, so being alive in Christ compels you to act accordingly. Our works of faith are by Him, through Him and in His strength, a true labor of love. Out of a desperate love for the Creator of the universe, and the amazing gift of eternal life with Him, we are compelled by His love to live for Him and live by His ways—this is our rest!

We must not be like the Israelites in the wilderness, who did not enter the rest that God intended for them. They missed His promises of a good life because they lacked faith and were disobedient. Hebrews 4 tells us that we have the same promises to enter His rest.

Using the Promised Land as a metaphor, the Apostle Paul infers there are two distinct types of rest we have in Jesus. The here-and-now rest, as well as the eternal rest we have with God after death. Our here-and-now physical rest is defined in Deuteronomy 28:1-14, which tells us there is

We have a strong warning in our text to not miss God's eternal rest by living in unbelief and disobedience.

rest and abundant blessing for the genuine believer who walks in His ways and lives by His statutes—this is our rest!

Because Jesus is alive and active, watching over His Word to perform it, (Jeremiah 1:12) all the promises of God, in Him, are yes, and in Him, amen to the glory of God through us. (2 Corinthians 2:10). For (because) with God nothing is or ever shall be impossible. No Word of God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment. (Luke 1:37 AMP) Because we make God our God, He looks over us with jealousy, giving us all we need to live victorious in Him—this is our rest!

Conclusion: Let Jesus, the Good Shepherd, lead you beside green pastures and still waters where He will restore your strength. Take His lighter yoke upon you and let Him rest you. God's Word is where my dreams and imaginations are given to me through His life in me—His desires become my heart's desires! I live by faith, knowing and believing that He will work in me my heart's desire through my obedience to His Word. "The fight of faith" is my labor of love knowing and declaring that the battle belongs to Him—this is my rest! —Ω

℣ Information and Revelation
℞ Application and Transformation

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word that searches the intents of my heart and exposes all my thoughts and motives—You lead me into paths of righteousness. Thank You for Your wonderful plan of rest that I can have here, as well as in the hereafter. LORD, I ask You for the desire, ability and courage to take up my cross and follow You all the days of my life. I look to You for Your plans and purposes to be fulfilled in me as I rest in Your arms of love.

LORD, I declare that my earthly journey is all about You—"Here I am, send me!" I ask for the grace to be a faithful servant, and to be the someone who takes You at Your Word. Help me day-by-day live in great faith and walk in obedience to Your ways—I desire to take You at Your Word and enter Your rest.

LORD, I declare the truth of Your Word that says: It is in You that my life is yes and amen. The works that You have for me to do are accomplished in Your strength by Your mighty hand—this is how I enter Your rest! I am compelled by Your relentless love to live and move by Your ways. Loving You and obeying You is my labor of love as I lean on You and declare that the battle belongs to You!

LORD, I declare that You are my God and I am Your child. Your Word says that You look over me with jealousy to give me all I need to live victorious—this is my rest I have in You! I live by faith, knowing and believing that You will work in me Your heart's desire and through my obedience to Your Word I will enter Your rest. I ask these petitions and make these declarations in Jesus' wonderful and glorious name. Amen!

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