

REST

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Rest means to pause in work so as to get new strength. Rest means to stop work. Scriptural rest means peace as a result of victory over the enemy.

Rest is freedom from oppression of the enemy, and peace of spirit, mind and body. Rest is to dwell in safety free from fear, anxiety and oppressions.

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” (Isa. 40:1, 2)

“Till the spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest, justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be peace and the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling-places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free” (Isa. 32:15-20).

“Meanwhile, the remainder of the Jews who were in the king’s provinces also assembled to protect themselves and get relief from their enemies. They killed seventy-five thousand of them but did not lay their hands on the plunder. This happened on the thirteenth day of the month of Adar, and on the fourteenth day, they rested and made it a day of feasting and joy” (Esther 9:16, 17).

“After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him” (2 Sam. 7:1)

“But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side, and there is no adversary or disaster” (1 Kings 5:4).

Without rest the battle continues. Where there is no rest, sorrow abounds. Without rest, progress is difficult and nearly impossible. Solomon prospered because he had rest on every side. The Jews in Esther’s day had peace and prospered after they defeated all their enemies by the king’s edict.

Rest according to Isaiah’s prophecy is the result of righteousness. Peace is rest. No man can experience rest except he is righteous. And no one can be righteous except he believes in Jesus Christ and it is given to him as a gift.

Where there is no rest, sorrow abounds. Rest generates joy and peace. When wars are ended, peace, joy and celebration will be the order of the day. Read Micah 4:1-4 and you will understand how cessation of war can bring about progress and prosperity.

When a man is in his rest, his creativity is enhanced. As his creativity is enhanced, his productivity takes a jumbo lift. Rest makes a man creative because his mind is at peace no longer distracted by the problems he had to contend with. As all wars end, the mind can concentrate to regain all that was lost in time and make progress.

Rest is a manifestation of victory over the devil. You can only be at rest when you have gained victory over the enemy. So, when God promises rest, what He means is that He will fight and defeat your enemy, destroy his works and give you victory, so you can settle down make progress without hindrance.

GOD PROMISED REST TO HIS PEOPLE

“My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14).

“Since you have not yet reached the resting place and the inheritance the LORD your God is giving you” (Deut. 12:9)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matt. 11:28-30).

“Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said” (Heb. 4:3).

The promised land of Canaan was the place of rest for weary and oppressed Israelites in Egypt. Unfortunately, they didn't make it, except for Joshua and Caleb.

The life of God called Eternal Life is the rest Jesus promised the believers in Him. In Christ Jesus, the torturing, distressful and oppressive life of sin is taken away, and the righteous life of God is given in its place. The yoke of the kingdom (Righteous life) is easy. The burden of the kingdom (Evangelization of the world) is light.

If you have not received Jesus as Saviour, you have not entered into the rest of God for your weary soul. When the body gets tired, it rests in death waiting the day of supernatural resurrection either to eternal reward or eternal damnation.

THE PROMISE STILL STANDS TODAY

The promise of His rest still stands today, because of you. God wants you delivered and freed. He wants you out of the oppressor's (devil's) camp. He wants you out of prison. He doesn't like to see you suffer. God has you in mind right from the beginning when He made the promise.

“Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it” (Heb. 4:1).

God's arms are still opened wide to receive you into His rest. Stop delaying. Don't harden your heart like the Israelites. He has what it takes to care for you. When you come to Him, give Him your all. Don't be like the Jews whose hearts were far away from God while they professed with their lips that they loved Him. Give all to him.

SOME PEOPLE DID NOT ENTER THEIR REST

In the Old Testament, people that left Egypt under Moses leadership, did not enter God's rest except for Joshua and Caleb. This was not because God couldn't keep his promise, but because the people were filled with unbelief and walked in disobedience.

“Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert? And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief” (Heb. 3:16-19).

WHAT PREVENTS ONE FROM ENTERING GOD'S REST

1. Unbelief of the word of God.

“So, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty

years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways'. So I declared an oath in my anger', "They shall never enter my rest". See to it brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first. As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion" (Heb. 3:7-15).

2. Rebellion against the authority and wisdom of God.

Disobedience, complaining and grumbling against God prevents one from entering into God's rest.

HOW TO ENTER INTO GOD'S REST

1. Believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and follow Him faithfully.

"Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, 'So, I declared an oath in my anger, 'they shall never enter my rest'. And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all His work". And again in the passage above, He says: "They shall never enter my rest". It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. Therefore, God again set a certain day, calling it today, when a long time, later He spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts". For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His. Let us, therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience". (Heb. 4:3-11).

2. His presence will take you there.

"The LORD replied, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'" [Exodus. 33:14].

"His presence" is the Holy Spirit. The anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit will produce rest.

"Till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest. Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field. The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest. Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely, how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free." (Isa. 32:15-20).

3. Believe it is Gods will to give you rest – rest on every side.

4. Prompt and willing obedience to every command of Jesus Christ will bring you into his rest. (Heb. 4: 6-11).

5. Don't worry about any problem that comes to you.

Worry upsets the rest that we are supposed to be enjoying. "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give you as world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"(Jn. 14:27). Peace is rest. Fear and worry take it away. Jesus taught that if we must enjoy his peace (rest), we must not be worried about anything, or be afraid.

Labour to enter the rest of heaven. Be rapturable. Live and walk with God in righteousness. If you have not received Jesus into your heart yet, do it now. Pray this prayer out loud with all your heart!

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for dying in my place. I thank you for substituting your life for mine. I repent of my sinful life. I give my heart and life to you today. Come into my spirit and live. Give me eternal life, and keep me faithful and loyal to you all the days of my life. Thank you for forgiving and accepting me. Thank you for making me your son. I have now entered into your rest.

If you have prayed this prayer, I encourage you to follow it up and make sure you don't change your mind about following Jesus Christ. Join a local Pentecostal Church where the word of God is taught clearly so you can grow in your relationship with Jesus.

Write me and let me know of your decision to follow Christ and I will pray for you. Send in any question, and I will be glad to answer it. God bless and keep you in His love in Jesus precious name.