

Rest in the Lord

by Jack Horn

Rest means to trust in Jesus Christ as our Life-Source, depending upon Him to empower our actions with His strength and direction. Rest is not ceasing to work; rest is the power of God working through us. Rest is depending on God to do the work and not our own efforts. God has equipped us to do His work. Ephesians 2:10. "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them," Hebrews 3:1 "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession."

Remember, in Ephesians 2, it says we were created in Christ Jesus for good works. At our new birth, we were created in Christ Jesus. All things are new, old things have passed away. Hebrews 3:2 "He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house." Jesus was faithful to God to do all the works God appointed Him to do. God lived His life through His Son, while He ministered on earth.

Hebrews 3:3-6 "For He has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house. ⁴For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God. ⁵Now Moses was faithful in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken later; ⁶but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house whose house we are, if we hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end."

Notice Christ was faithful as a Son over all of us. It has always been in the heart of God, to be a father to many sons.

Hebrews 2:10 "For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering."

God's ultimate intention and purpose has always been to be a Father of many Sons, living His life through them.

Hebrews 3:7-11 (NNAS) "Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, ⁸DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, ⁹WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. ¹⁰"THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; ¹¹AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'""

In the wilderness, Israel did not believe God was able to take them into the Promised Land. After the spies returned, fear came on the people. They would not allow God to do the work and fight their battles. They were unable to enter into the rest of God.

Hebrews 3:12 (RSV) "Take care, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God."

Just learning about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is not enough to enter into the rest of God. Being a mature Son requires an intimate relationship with the triune God.

Hebrews 3:13 (RSV) "But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of [Mr.] sin." [Mr. Sin is a persona in us.] Mr. Sin is always

busy trying to convince Christians they are the ones that need to do the works of God, in their own power - by their own knowledge and strength.

Hebrews 3:14 (NNAS) "For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,"

Here, the Holy Spirit is telling us we are partakers of Christ; Christ is in us, the hope of glory. We have been created "In Christ". Do not be deceived by Mr. Sin telling us it has not happened, because of something we have done, or have not done. Our acceptance by God is by our birth, not by our performance.

Hebrews 3:15 (NNAS) "while it is said, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS, AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME.""

All of Israel heard the voice of God. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the voice of God. Israel made a choice not to believe what God had said, when hearing the voice of God should have energized faith and believing what God had said. Then the power and might of God would have led them into the promised land. They would have acted in faith. Instead their hearts were hardened and they refused to be led by God.

Hebrews 3:16-19 (NNAS) "For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief."

Remember, rest means to trust in Jesus as our life-source, depending on Him to empower our actions with His strength and direction. Rest is not ceasing to work. Rest is the power of God working through us. Rest is depending on God to do the work, not our own efforts.

By this you can see the requirement of a strong, close relationship with God; to spend time with our Father as a Son, to desire to have conversations with Him as a Father, to have fellowship with Him.

1John 1:1-3 (NNAS) "What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life- ²and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- ³what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ."

We were saved that we might know Him in intimate daily fellowship.

Do good works have a place in the Christian life? Of course! But they are an overflow of the relationship with Him, an evidence of His Life being expressed through us. Understanding our identity is absolutely essential to our success in living the Christian Life and resting in God. 1Corinthians 5:17 (NNAS) "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Our second birth, created us "In Christ". Our identity is now "IN CHRIST". Our old identity was in "OURSELVES".

Much of that identity was in the name of our church, in our titles, in our tribe, in where we lived, in how big our house is, in how much money we make; all kinds of things. Those were all things of the flesh, but that is how we identified ourselves. That old sin nature died on the cross with Jesus. We were

raised with Christ after His death on the cross with a new identity. We are now “IN CHRIST”. This new identity cannot come with head knowledge alone. It must come by revelation from the Holy Spirit.

The Christian life is not about Christ. It is Christ. It is God’s purpose to bring every Christian to the place where he no longer lives for self, but where Christ is allowed to live His life through us.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NNAS) ““Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.” ²⁹“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.” ³⁰“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.””

There may be other reasons why Christians try to live the Christian life out of self-effort. But one thing is for sure; it takes divine action to bring a person to the place of renouncing the self-sufficiency. It’s tough to let go of self-sufficiency after having lived a lifetime relying on it. God often works through a painful process to bring a person to the place of being willing to renounce the self-life.

Matthew 16:25 (NKJV) “Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Remember it is Christ in you, the hope of glory and the new you is “IN CHRIST”. Let us rest in Him and desire He live His life through us. AMEN

*******End of Lesson*******