

God is our Rest

Is 30:15 **In returning and rest you shall be saved...but you would not.**

Heb 4:9 **So there remains a Sabbath rest (still waiting NLT) for the people of God.**

God says there is a rest remaining, waiting for the people of God, for those who have been born of God through the new birth. Like His people of old Israel, they have begun to be delivered from satan (the ruler of the kingdoms of this world, of whom pharaoh was a type) by believing the initial words of the Gospel, the forgiveness of their past sins (crossing the red sea) washed clean and given a new spirit. Yet, as with old Israel, this is not the end but the beginning of the journey intended to bring them to their Fathers desired destination, His presence, His promised land, which they were to enter into and remain in forever, reigning over their enemies, from victory to victory. Sadly, most (save 2 of at least 2 million), never reached the home that God had prepared for them but died in the wilderness. These things happened to them naturally as foreshadow of the things His people under the new covenant would experience spiritually. He is warning us, that we like them, although born again (delivered from slavery in Egypt, the world) will die in our sin if we refuse to enter His rest.

Heb 4:2 **For this good news--that God has prepared this rest--has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God. NLT Heb 3:19 **So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. Heb 3:17 **And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness?******

The wilderness is intended to be a brief but a necessary part of our journey, for it is there we learn the powerlessness of our sin (carnal) nature to obey Gods words. Our new heart begins to see their beauty and promise but then, the old nature sets out, striving to understand them with our intellect and in self effort to appropriate and obtain them, ending in inevitable defeat. This is the wilderness; all that we are naturally, trying to know and do the Bible as a rule book, under the curse of the law, without God! Impossible! As a prodigal child, they have departed from God and may still be doing religious dead works the heart is cold and the conscious condemns them. Here is the crossroad every one of us is brought to. Most, like old Israel, choose to remain here, in the wilderness of the carnal mind and nature, accepting a multiplicity of false doctrines to justify living in unbelief which He calls sin and dead to God. Some, like the Romans 7 man, in honest despair of their wretched and weary struggle, will cry out for deliverance; this one He is able to bring into His rest.

1 Cor 10:11 **Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us (Christians), on whom the ends of the ages have come. HCSB**

Heb 4:1 **God's promise of entering His rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you (born again Christians,) might fail to experience it.**

Entrance into Gods rest is by faith receiving, the Promise of the Father, His Holy Spirit. He gives His Holy Spirit to those who are willing to cease from their own works, to surrender their will to obey Him, and ask believing they have received. This act of faith, of grateful, desirous obedience to submit to Gods rule was represented by the crossing of the river Jordan which means to *descend* (come under the influence and control of). This one has left

his natural life of toiling self effort and driving lusts to enter into the presence of God, the spiritual land of His promises, Canaan. It means on *bended knee*, in other words, to lovingly submit to the authority of God your Father. Instead of carrying the burden and care in wicked, prideful independence from my all wise, all loving, all powerful Father, I choose to humbled myself as a little child, casting all my cares on Him, who can now take care of me and all that concerns me. God is a Spirit who begot me as His spiritual child with the intent that I live in my spirit, full of His Spirit, where all His promises to me are yes and amen. He does all this as I am led by His Spirit within me, communicating His will to me, leading me in the way I should go. My indwelling Teacher instructs me, feeding me with His words, words of His choosing. As my heart listens, believes, He empowers me to obey what He speaks, I am changed day by day increasingly into His nature, from one revealed promise to another.

This is the *new covenant* I will make with *them* I will put My law in their inward parts and write it on their hearts. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My words and you will keep My words and do them! Jerm 31:33 Ez 36:27

Matt 11:28-29 Come to me, all of you who are weary and loaded down with burdens, and I will give you rest.NIV Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, because I am meek, and humble of heart: and you shall find rest for your souls.DRB

In order to continue to live permanently in the presence of the One who loved you and gave Himself for you, your greatest enemy must be overcome. Jesus said... whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. It is the life of self, your human nature with its pride and lusts, living independent from God, seeking to please itself, doing what seems right in its own eyes. Although you have been given a new tender, teachable God willed heart, it will always be in conflict with your flesh and subject to being brought back into submission to self will, which is sin, that hardens it and results in death to God. No! God has made a Way, through the crucifixion of Christ, that we may become partakers of His death to self and the power of sin over our will simply by believing His words that say so. His Holy Spirit will give you understanding and the faith of God to enable you to lay hold of His words and make them a living reality within you. Only believe! Receive by faith words such as these Gal 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me** Only by dying to all that can separate you from your God are you able to remain permanently at home in your Father's presence, now and forever. One Spirit with Him, in unbroken fellowship, He living in you and you living Him; this is the perpetual Sabbath He has purchased for you. Having ceased from your own works, He is your all sufficiency working in you all that He requires supplying every need, fully satisfying your soul in communion with His Holy Spirit, feeding you on His words He has become your resting place.

Heb 13:5b He Himself has said: I will never leave you nor forsake you Matt 28:20: I am with you always, even to the end of the age Ex 33:14 My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest Jerm 32:40 I will put my fear (Myself, My word and Spirit) in their hearts and they will not depart from Me Ps 62:5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God.

The Holy Spirit is speaking this morning saying **Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as *they did* in the rebellion!** Do not refuse Him who speaks or resist His Holy Spirit. Return to Him, enter His rest by faith in His promises! Now is the time!