



Be Diligent to Enter God's Rest!

Lesson Nine • Hebrews 4:1-11

When's the last time you experienced a good relaxing "rest"? What is "rest" for you?

2nd WARNING: TODAY DON'T HARDEN YOUR HEART in UNBELIEF and FALL SHORT of GOD'S ETERNAL REST!

Negative Example of Past Wilderness Generation (3:7-19)
Don't Harden Your Hearts Like Israel Did and Failed to Enter God's Rest!

Proactive Exhortation to Present Church Generation (4:1-13)
Be Diligent to Enter God's Future Rest Like Jesus Already Has for Us!

Hebrews 3:7–4:13 is a 1st-Century Christian sermon on Psalm 95:7-11 looking back to Numbers 14 with Genesis 2:2 thrown in.

Why Be Diligent to Enter God's Future Rest?

1. The DANGER of Not Entering God's Rest Is Fearfully Deadly. 4:1-2

The FEAR Required to Enter God's Rest While the Promise Remains

"Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it." (v. 1)

- Fear of God is a WORTHY motivation for true believers. (10:38; 12:21)

There's a fear that shrinks back in terrified unbelief and there's a fear that draws near in trusting belief!

- Fear of anyone not entering God's promised rest is a HEALTHY motivation for true believers.

Why great fear?

The FAITH Required to Enter God's Rest While the Promise Remains

"For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard." (v. 2)

- Faith that personally TRUSTS in the preaching of God's "Good News."

What was the "good news" the OT Wilderness Generation of Israel heard but did not believe?

- **General Good News** in the Covenant with Abraham – Exodus 3:6-8; 33:14; Joshua 1:13
- **Specific Good News** in the Exhortation by Joshua and Caleb – Numbers 14:7-10

What is the "good news" the NT believers have heard and are believing?

- **General Good News** that Christ Is Fulfilling the Old Covenants in the New Covenant – 2:1-4; 6:13-20
- **Specific Good News** in the Exhortations of the Scriptures – 3:12-13 and Book of Hebrews

A fear that draws near to God by faith in His Son and His gospel promises will be enabled to persevere to the end when we enter into His eternal rest!

- Faith that publicly UNITES with God's believing people.

Faith Alone Saves but Saving Faith Is Never Alone and Never Goes It Alone!
Saving faith works out God's salvation from within and identifies with God's people without!

2. The DELIGHT of Entering God's Rest Is Still Available. 4:3-10

The PROGRESSIVE REVELATION of GOD'S REST

Creational Rest	Typological Rest	Christological Rest	Eschatological Rest
The Creator rested after He completed His work of creation. Genesis 2:2	Israel's was to enter God's rest after conquering the Promise Land, but it was never fully conquered or completed. Numbers 14; Joshua 13:1; Judges 1	Christians presently rest in Christ which He has now fully conquered but not yet fully completed. Matthew 11:28-30	All of God's people will enter God's rest after their works are done and the Kingdom is fully conquered and completed. Revelation 14:13
BUT God is still at work – enjoying and fulfilling His purposes in His creation even though it is fallen due to humanity's sin.	BUT Israel was supposed to keep working – actively enjoying and fulfilling God's purposes in the conquered land.	BUT Christians are to be still at work – actively enjoying rest in Christ, while being diligent to enter God's rest that has not yet arrived.	FINALLY , all of God's people will still be working – actively enjoying and fulfilling God's purposes in His Millennial Kingdom and New Creation!

What Is God's Rest?

- Rest is what believers will experience when God's **KINGDOM** finally comes. *Revelation 21:1-3; Hebrews 12:22-24*
God's presence will dwell with God's people in God's place through God's Pioneer, Jesus Christ.
- Rest is what we experience when God's **SALVATION** is fully realized. *Revelation 21:4-8; Hebrews 12:25-29*
*A state of **saving safety** (no more physical or spiritual enemies), **security** (no more temptations or tears), **stability** (no more disease, disasters, or death), and **satisfaction** (all of God's blessing fully realized) in God and His Son by His Spirit!*
*In the Book of Hebrews this rest is the result of partaking in the Son's **heavenly calling** (3:1) with its **heavenly conversion** (6:4) and **heavenly cleansing** (8:5; 9:23) when we finally enter into the **heavenly country** (11:16) and the **heavenly city** (12:22).*
- Rest is what we experience in Christ *now* and but especially in the **FUTURE**. *Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:3, 9; 12:22*
- Rest is what we will experience when we **NO LONGER** have to work to enter God's rest. *Revelation 14:13*

3. The DILIGENCE to Enter God's Rest Is Absolutely Necessary. 4:11

"Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience." (4:11)

- Be diligent in **SAVING** faith: *Jesus the Son is our better "Joshua"!* (3:16-19; 4:2-3, 7, 11)
- Be diligent in **SOBER** fear: *The living God judges the apathic and the apostate!* (4:1, 11; 3:17)
- Be diligent in **SPIRITUAL** fervor: *The Spirit will enable all believers to enter God's rest!* (4:11; 3:12-13)

Congregational Warning	Individual Warning	Apathy Leading to Apostasy
3:12 "See to it, brethren,"	"that there not be in any one of y'all"	"an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God"
3:13 "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today,"	"so that none of y'all"	"will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."
4:1 Therefore, let us fear , if while a promise remains of entering His rest,"	" any one of y'all "	"may seem to have come short of it."
4:11 "Therefore, let us be diligent to enter that rest,"	"so that no one "	"will fall , through following the same example of disobedience."

WARNING: Be Diligent to Enter God's Rest While the Promise Remains!
Hold Fast to Christ Together with Saving Faith, Sober Fear, and Spiritual Fervor!