
CROWN OF LIFE

FAITH REST LIFE

Today we are looking at the fourth and final crown we receive for our stewardship here on earth. The fourth crown, the crown of life, is acquired through the development of the faith rest technique. The crown of life is mentioned in James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10.

Read and write James 1:12.

Read and write Revelation 2:10.

How do we receive the crown of life? When we understand, believe and apply the promises, principles and doctrines of God's word to our circumstances and experiences, we are using the faith rest technique. Once we have learned to apply the faith rest technique, it allows us to have stability and security in our lives regardless of our circumstances.

In order to apply the faith rest technique in our lives, we must have knowledge of the Word of God as well as understand it and apply it to our experiences. Read Hebrew 4:2. The writer of Hebrews tells us that the Jews heard the word of God, but they did not benefit from it because they did not mix what they learned with faith. This passage can apply to us as well. Just because we have knowledge of the Word of God doesn't mean we have applied it to our lives. We must mix our knowledge of the Word with faith. Once we place our dependency, or

faith, in Biblical principles, our beliefs, and therefore, our actions will change. Let's create an equation to illustrate this principle.

Knowledge + Faith = Belief (Action)

Ephesians 2:17-19 tells us that we must operate in fellowship if we are to understand godly principles. Any attempt at understanding spiritual things through a human view point will end in failure.

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-11. In order to receive the crown of life, we must apply the faith rest technique to our lives. This requires knowledge of the Word of God and dependency upon that knowledge. In order for us to receive accurate knowledge, our study must be done in fellowship through a spiritual perspective and never with a human viewpoint.

Let's take a deeper look at the mechanics for developing the faith rest technique resulting in a faith rest life. Remember that knowledge of the word alone will not change us. It's the application of the word that alters our lives.

Techniques for the Faith Rest Life

1) Communication: We must have the Word of God communicated to us either through reading or hearing. Read Isaiah 28:9-10. He defines three ways for effective communication of God's Word.

- a. Categorical Communication: Organization of principles of doctrine based on Scripture comparison.
- b. Exegetical communication: Verse by verse analysis using grammar, syntax and etymology.
- c. Textual Communication: Understanding historical background of Biblical passages resulting in interpretation that is historically related.

2) Comprehension: Once we have knowledge of the Word of God, we must understand, or comprehend it. This can only take place while we are under the control of the Holy Spirit. Read 1 Corinthians 2:14. According to this verse there are three ways in which the Holy Spirit works in us to help us comprehend knowledge in a spiritual capacity.

- a. Positive Volition: Our attitude toward Bible doctrine is the key to understanding it.
- b. Concentration: Not all subjects are exciting or as interesting as others, but when we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we will be able to concentrate no matter the topic.
- c. Break Through: Just because we are controlled by the Holy Spirit doesn't mean we will automatically understand everything. We must use the knowledge we've stored previously in our brains to help us connect concepts.

3) Faith/Transfer: Do you agree with everything you've heard or learned from the Bible the first time? I know I don't. I believe that the Bible is absolute truth, but sometimes, especially when I was a new believer, my worldly knowledge I attained before salvation disagreed with Biblical truth. I had to choose, in faith, to agree with what the Bible says. It is only once we place our dependency in the truths of God's word, that we will see our actions change. If there is a behavior in our life that doesn't line up with God's word, we need to change a belief about that action. Once we change our dependency, our belief will change and therefore our action will align with God's word.

4) Operating From Your Frame of Reference: Once we've placed our dependency upon the knowledge we have of God's word and form a belief about something, that belief will be transferred from the left frontal lobe of our brain to the right frontal lobe. The right frontal lobe of our brain holds our conscience and our frame of reference. This is where our behavior and our norms and standards come from. If we have placed dependency upon Biblical doctrines and they have been transferred into our right frontal lobe, we will be at rest in faith. Read Hebrews 4:1-11.

It's amazing how much we need God and His Word in our lives. If we desire to follow God's will for our lives, there is nothing that we can do on our own to accomplish this!

Write the four techniques for developing the faith rest life. In your own words, add a description of each technique.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Fill in the blanks for the equation we established above.

_____ + _____ = _____ (_____)

How does this equation apply to your life?

REVIEW

1. Crown of Joy – Faithful Stewardship

A faithful steward successfully carries out his role as a believer designed by God. As believers our stewardship is three fold. We are responsible for the time God has given us. (Matthew 6:34) We are responsible for the spiritual gift(s) God has given us. (Romans 12:6-8) We are responsible for the possessions God has given us. (Job 1:21 & Matthew 25:14-28)

2. Crown of Righteousness – Filling of the Holy Spirit

The filling of the Holy Spirit takes place when the believer is in fellowship with God through the confession of sin. Being filled with the Holy Spirit means being saturated to the point of control. (Ephesians 5:18) Once we are controlled by the Holy Spirit, we can follow the specific blue print God created for each believer. (1 Corinthians 12:11)

3. Crown of Glory – Development of Spiritual Maturity

Developing spiritual maturity takes place when the believer studies, understands and applies Bible Doctrine. The structure of spiritual maturity is illustrated by the erection of a building. Jesus and His teachings are our foundation. (1 Corinthians 2:16 & 3:11) The first floor is orientation to grace. (Romans & Galatians) Floor two is a relaxed mental attitude. (Galatians & Hebrews) The third floor is the mastery of the details of life. (Philippians 4:11 & Romans 8:28) The fourth floor is the capacity to love. (1 John & 1 Corinthians 13) The fifth floor is inner happiness. (Matthew 5) The roof is the 7,000 plus promises in the word of God.

4. Crown of Life – Development of the Faith Rest Life

Developing the Faith Rest life happens when the believer understands, believes and applies the doctrine of God's word to life's circumstances. (James 1:12) Communication, comprehension, application of the faith transfer technique and operation from the frame of reference are the mechanics for developing the faith rest life.