

The Rest of God

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Scripture references: Psalm 46, 95:8-11; Hebrews 3:7-4:16

The Lord has spoken to me much about this subject for the last 11 years. It's a subject about which I've never heard anyone preach a sermon yet it's probably more important for us to understand this subject and apply the knowledge of God in this area to our lives today than at any prior time in the history of the Church. When I wrote the Hebrews commentary the Lord awakened me after I'd finished writing about Hebrews, chapter 4, and asked me to place more emphasis on this Rest of God.

We tend to not understand the Rest of God because we have fixed in our thinking that spirit beings don't require rest. A couple of people have questioned my statement in *Mysterious Secrets* about Satan "resting 2 hours" and this being a good time to pray in spiritual warfare yet the Bible says that God "rested on the seventh day from all his work" (Ge. 2:2, Heb. 4:4).

It is quite clear from the Gospel accounts, however, that the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Lawyers – all the religious experts of Jesus' day – did not understand the Rest of God. That is why they continually had disagreements with Jesus over the Sabbath – they didn't understand it! Do we understand it?

The morning of December 10, the Lord spoke to me again about this *rest* as I began reading Psalm 46, which is a picture of those who have entered this rest, a rest of faith and absolute trust in God.

Many if not most Christians have entered this *rest* in the area of salvation and eternal life – they know that when they die they will be with the Lord in

Heaven. Yet there is much more about the Rest of God than salvation. Most Christians have not entered the Rest of God in other areas; this is why Satan is able to wage spiritual warfare against them in the areas of the soul and flesh – they have not entered the Rest of God in the area of health, financial prosperity, family relationships, etc. But if we believe the Word of God then we can enter rest on all levels. I was “in the spirit” most of last night fighting and applying this principle of Scripture in the area of finances so that we can help some people who need financial assistance right now. I was able to enter rest after several hours knowing that the amount needed is coming in! Praise God!

Why was God able to rest on the Sabbath? One of the things we’ve observed over the years is that many Christians lose their healing after God heals them. Why does this happen? It’s a principle of rest and faith. Faith is not a one-time thing. People ask me, “How long will I remain healed, Brother Timmons?” or “How long will I remain saved?”

The answer is the same – as long as you believe! Hebrews is so clear about not “hardening our hearts in unbelief!” Remember, there are only two things that can keep you from receiving from God – sin and unbelief. If there’s no unrepented sin in your life then only unbelief and a hard heart can keep the Promises of God from manifesting in your life.

Like the Hebrews of Moses’ day that Psalm 95 and the Book of Hebrews refer to, a hardened heart – “an evil heart of unbelief” (Heb. 3:12) – can keep us from entering this rest of God and receiving the Promises of God. The Lord had me minister this verse of Scripture in Austin, Texas, to the wife of a man with M.S. we were ministering to at the time. They were a Baptist couple who were very active in Hyde Park Baptist Church, where our son Jonathan attended school. She was having difficulty *understanding* how the healing could occur one Sunday afternoon and the Lord spoke very clearly to me and said, “Tell her she won’t receive from Me because she has an evil heart of unbelief.”

When I ministered that “word” to her my wife was shocked that I would say that because it does not seem to be words “seasoned with grace” that we are supposed to always speak yet I knew it was from the Lord. She phoned me back later that night and said how those words kept coming back to her again and again all day long and she realized that she was in unbelief where her husband’s healing was concerned.

If you understand the Greek language then it helps you in understanding this concept. John the apostle, a member of Jesus’ inner circle who knew Him best, never uses the Greek noun, *pistis*, for belief. Instead, ninety-eight times

he uses the verb, *pisteuo*. For John, faith is an activity – a continuous commitment and not a “static” belief in Jesus. No, faith is not a one-time decision, a static event, but a life style with God. It is only those who “believe and keep on believing” in Jesus as Savior who ultimately enter the Rest of Eternal Life. But also, it is only those who “believe and keep on believing” who are able to live out their existence on earth in Divine health, free from sickness and disease. I’ve walked in this Divine health for 30 years and 11 months so I know what I’m talking about. Like Dizzy Dean the baseball legend used to say when he announced the baseball games on television when I was a young boy, “It ain’t braggin’ if you done it!” My brothers and sisters, you can do it, too, if you will “believe and keep on believing!” (cf. Heb. 3:6).

The Greek word, *adelphoi*, translated “brothers” in Hebrews 3:1 and elsewhere throughout the New Testament, refers to siblings in a family – both boys and girls. Therefore, the Body of Christ is made up of “holy brothers” – men and women, boys and girls in the family of God. All are given a “measure of faith” but it’s up to each of us to increase our faith by the Word. The more developed your faith is in an area of Promise then the closer you can come to entering God’s rest in that area.

We are to “consider” or “fix your thoughts on” (NIV) Jesus. He is called “the apostle and high priest of our confession.” As I pointed out in *Mysterious Secrets*, your confession of the Word of God is a very, very important weapon of warfare for spiritual combat. Jesus was an apostle, a “sent one,” who enables us to operate in faith and He is the High Priest of our “confession” of faith; that means He is continuing to minister your confession before the Father so that your confession of faith will become a reality. I have seen this occur in Heaven while in the spirit.

One of the problems we have as humans is that we tend to think in two or at most three dimensions. I took physics in high school and three years in college, including nuclear physics. Science and engineering tend to deal with only three (length, width, height, i.e., spatial dimensions) or to some degree with the fourth, time. Yet we have little knowledge of the fifth dimension of spirit, even in the Church – we don’t know much about the spirit world and how it functions.

“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 (Israel of the wilderness) example of disobedience.” (Heb. 4:9-11)

I want to encourage you today to “enter that rest” of God by faith in every area of your life.