

The “Rest” Of the Story

House of the Lord

Wednesday 7-23-14

Possessing a “rest”, of God mindset!

Hebrews 3:7-4:11 (NLT)

That is why the Holy Spirit says,

“Today when you hear his voice,

⁸ don’t harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled,

when they tested me in the wilderness.

⁹ There your ancestors tested and tried my patience,
even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

¹⁰ So I was angry with them, and I said,

‘Their hearts always turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

¹¹ So in my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”

¹² Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. ¹³ You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. ¹⁴ For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. ¹⁵ Remember what it says:

“Today when you hear his voice,

don’t harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled.”

¹⁶ And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn’t it the people Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn’t it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn’t it the people who disobeyed him?

¹⁹ So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest. ⁴ God’s promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it. 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. ³ For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others,
God said,

“In my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest,’”

even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. ⁴ We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: “On the seventh day God rested from all his work.” ⁵ But in the other passage God said, “They will never enter my place of rest.”

⁶ So God’s rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God. ⁷ So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted:

“Today when you hear his voice,
don’t harden your hearts.”

⁸ Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. ⁹ So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. ¹⁰ For all who have entered into God’s rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. ¹¹ So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.

Now review Hebrews 4:12-13 (NLT)

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

What is the “rest”, of God about?

The first part of rest comes from “God said”.

Numbers 23:19 (NAS)

“God is not a man, that He should lie,
Nor a son of man, that He should repent;
Has He said, and will He not do it?
Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

Lamentations 3:37 (NAS)

Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass,
Unless the Lord has commanded *it*?

Isaiah 45:19 (NAS)
"I have not spoken in secret,
In some dark land;
I did not say to the offspring of Jacob,
'Seek Me in a waste place';
I, the Lord, speak righteousness,
Declaring things that are upright.

The next element is trust in His faithfulness and Truth, which feeds faith.

Mark 9:22 (NAS)
It has often thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him.
But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!"

"If you can" _____

Mark 9:23 (NAS)
And Jesus said to him, "If You can?" All things are possible to him who
believes."

At this juncture, Messiah turns the "if" from Himself, (THE WORD OF TRUTH, walking, talking, doing – demonstrating) to the individual in need. "If you can believe", believe God, believe His Son, believe the Word of Truth, believe in Kingdom of Light over kingdom of darkness. Spirit truth vs. mental comprehension.

Faith for the Believer is a matter of Trust, not of simple believing.

Mark 11:22
Then The Anointed Redeemer, said to His learners, students of The Word of
Truth, disciples, "have the God kind of faith". (not, have faith in God)

Some people claim to have faith in God, but do they have the faith of God?

Jude 3 (NAS)
Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common
salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend
earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

The Faith, once delivered.

Galatians 2:20

I am crucified with The Anointed One, and though I died to self in Him, yet I am in newness of life, but now, it is not the carnally minded self who is living, but The Anointing is living its Truth through me, and this new life being lived out in my flesh, is lived in submission to the faith of The Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself in my place to prepare a place for me in the presence of God. (I am of His house, by His faith)

Faith means “resting” in what God has said.

Isaiah 55:9 (NAS)

“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Learning to think His thoughts is renewing the mind, and is born on the lips of confessing His Truth, and re-formatting thought patterns from kingdom of darkness to Kingdom of Light (Revelation).

Isaiah 55:10 (NAS)

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
And do not return there without watering the earth
And making it bear and sprout,
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;

That’s how My Word works,
I say it, you receive it, apply it to the area lacking, rest in it as done, and it will be done.

Mark 11:23 (NAS)

Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be *granted* him.

- Speak to the mountain, problem, need
- Rest in your spirit – do not doubt in your heart
- Put your trust in the Word spoken (then)
- And it will come to pass (shall have it)

Mark 11:24 (NAS)

Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be *granted* you.

Believe, when you pray His Word,
Receive it as done, trust, rest, expect,
And it shall come to you (in time of harvest).

Return for a moment to the object lesson given through the children of Israel on failure to rest, failure to receive, failure to trust, God said.

Deuteronomy 6:10-13 (NAS)

“Then it shall come about when the Lord your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build, ¹¹ and houses full of all good things which you did not fill, and hewn cisterns which you did not dig, vineyards and olive trees which you did not plant, and you eat and are satisfied, ¹² then watch yourself, that you do not forget the Lord who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ¹³ You shall fear *only* the Lord your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

Joshua 24:13 (NAS)

I gave you a land on which you had not labored, and cities which you had not built, and you have lived in them; you are eating of vineyards and olive groves which you did not plant.’

“Fear, have reverential awe, toward Jehovah Lord of Hosts, and serve Him in sincerity and truth.” Joshua 24:14

Faith is simple, God speaks, we listen, we change our thoughts, actions and expectations to make room for, and align under, what He has said. We trust what He said, we rest in it as done, we anxiously await its manifestation, we celebrate ownership of it, and we praise Him for having done already, what we await in eager anticipation.

Living life with a long and winding driveway, observable from a vantage point.

-To be continued-

