

In Him, For Him, Through Him – Part 4 The Hindrance to Rest

- We were created for worship.
- We all worship something or someone, even if that someone is ourselves.
- Worship means to give, priority, and deference to.
- True worship brings rest.
- Biblical rest is not dependent on contexts, but it is a condition of the soul.

*“He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn’t live in man-made temples, and human hands can’t serve his needs—for he has no needs. **He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need.** From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries. “His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. **For in him we live and move and exist.** As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’ And since this is true, **we shouldn’t think of God as an idol** designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone. “God overlooked people’s ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead.” **Acts 17:24-31 (NLT)***

- **The greatest hinderance to rest is the idols we create.**

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)

We live in a world where people are encouraged:

- **To form a God in their own image rather than the other way around.**
- **A god in your image is our insistence to create a god the way we imagine, instead of trusting what God’s Word says.**
- **You must submit to what the Bible says about God whether you like all of Him or not.**

Let us then be eager to know this rest for ourselves, and let us beware that no one misses it through falling into the same kind of unbelief as those we have

mentioned. For the Word that God speaks is alive and active; it cuts more keenly than any two-edged sword: it strikes through to the place where soul and spirit meet, to the innermost intimacies of a man’s being: it exposes the very thoughts and motives of a man’s heart. No creature has any cover from the sight of God; everything lies naked and exposed before the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Hebrews 4:11-13 (J. B. Phillips)

*“What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols? Woe to him who says to wood, ‘Awake!’ To silent stone, ‘Arise! It shall teach!’ Behold, it is overlaid with gold and silver, **yet in it there is no breath at all. “But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”***

Habakkuk 2:18-20 (NKJV)

If you have a god of your own making, you have a god:

- **Who will not challenge you.**
- **Who will not correct you.**
- **Who will not grow you.**
- **Who will not tell you the truth.**
- **Who will not love you.**

*The Lord says, “**Don’t harden your hearts as Israel did at Meribah, as they did at Massah in the wilderness. For there your ancestors tested and tried my patience, even though they saw everything I did.** For forty years I was angry with them, and I said, ‘They are a people whose hearts turn away from me. **They refuse to do what I tell them.’ So in my anger I took an oath: ‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”***

Psalms 95:8-11 (NLT)

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand.** Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and **your real life is hidden with Christ in God.** And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. **Don’t be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.** Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don’t lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. **Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.***

Colossians 3:1-10 (NLT)

- **Your highest regard in life cannot go to anything or anyone else, expect Christ.**

Don't love money; be satisfied with what you have. For God has said, "I will never fail you. I will never abandon you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me?"

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NLT)

The Lord is for me, so I will have no fear. What can mere people do to me? Yes, the Lord is for me; he will help me. I will look in triumph at those who hate me. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in people. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

Psalms 118:6-9 (NLT)

I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation. The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalms 118:21-24 (NKJV)