

In Him, For Him, Through Him – Part 6 “Rest Brings True Freedom”

- We were created for worship.
- We all worship something or someone.
- True worship brings rest.
- Rest is a condition of the soul.
- The greatest hindrance to rest are the idols we create.
- Rest can only be found in a relationship with Christ Jesus.

*“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.’**”* Acts 17:24-28 (NLT)

- Rest brings what we all desire, true freedom.
- Boundaries either create frustration that leads to exasperation or direction that leads to our destination.

*You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; **he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.**”* Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)

- There are only two responses to God’s boundaries: Obedience or Disobedience.

*Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” **But the righteousness that is by faith says:** “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,”** that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: **If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your***

faith and are saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:5-13 (NIV)

*“For you are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. **The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you,** and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”* Deuteronomy 7:6-8 (NIV)

- When we fail to rest in the work of someone else, we are demonstrating that we don’t have confidence in their work.

*And in the passage above he refers to “my rest” as something already in existence. **No, it is clear that some were intended to experience this rest and, since the previous hearers of the message failed to attain to it because they would not believe God,** he proclaims a further opportunity when he says through David, many years later, “today”, just as he had said “today” before. “Today, if you will hear his voice, do not harden your hearts”. For if Joshua had given them the rest, we should not find God saying, at a much later date, “today”. **There still exists, therefore, a full and complete rest for the people of God. And he who experiences his real rest is resting from his own work as fully as God from his. 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.**”* Hebrews 4:5-11 (J.B. Phillips)

- When we rest in the work of God, we get credit for all that Jesus did for us.

*Either way, Christ, love controls us. **Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life.** He died for everyone, so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point. **How differently we know Him now! This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!**”* 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (NLT)

- We must learn to rest in the work of Jesus before our work can ever have any benefit.

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. **And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him.** And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sin against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. **So we are Christ's ambassadors;** God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" **For God made Christ, who never sin, to be the offering for our sin, so that we would be made right with God through Christ.**

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (NLT)

As God's partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God's kindness and then ignore it. For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:1-2 (NLT)

To enter God's rest and live in His freedom we must understand that:

- **Faith is the key.**
- **Worship is the door.**
- **Grace is the house.**
- **Rest and true freedom are the result.**

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with fullest confidence, that we may receive mercy for our failures and grace to help in the hour of need.

Hebrews 4:16 (J.B. Phillips)

- **Our response to what God has done for us is not to try to work to earn it, it is to worship Him for it!**

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! **Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his.** We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. **Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise.** Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.*

Psalms 100:1-5 (NLT)

So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever! Since this new way gives us such confidence, we can be very bold. We are not like , who put a veil over his face so the people of Israel would not see the glory, even though it was destined to fade away. But the people's minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. **And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ.** Yes, even

today when they read Moses' writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. but whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.**

2 Corinthians 3:11-18 (NLT)

Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up.

2 Corinthians 4:1 (NLT)

Questions to Reflect On:

- How connected are you to Jesus and His purposes these days?**
- Is your spiritual life alive and vibrant?**
- Can you point to specific areas of change and progress?**
- How would you describe your emotional health?**
- Have you identified the idols you created and checked whether you are listening to them or the voice of the Holy Spirit?**
- When last did you have a good repentant session and asked the Holy Spirit to clean out your emotional closet?**
- What would it look like practically to live and make decisions from a healthy soul?**
- What are you waiting for?**