

Resting in God

“The quiet assurance that your God is the God of all things.”

Study 1

Matthew 6: 33 AMP. But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides.

Unless the Lord reveals Himself, we have no hope of ever resting in the full assurance of His love. Unless we fully understand what Jesus has done for us on the cross, we will flounder between the three kingdoms, double minded and unstable in all of our ways.

When the veil of the Temple was torn in two at the time of Jesus death, you and I became fully accepted into an intimate relationship with our Father God; the very same kind of acceptance that Jesus has with Him. We are accepted as He would be accepted, because we come to our Father in the name of Jesus through the covenant that is established for us.

One of the primary reasons that Jesus lived and died was to reestablish the kind of relationship that Adam and Eve had with God before they sinned. God was to be their everything and all things. That is why they were formed for Him. There was to be no other source in their lives except God Himself. It was to be a glorious relationship; created mankind looking to a loving God for every need or every hope, and an all- powerful, loving Father, delightfully providing every need from His boundless heart to them. These great, great grandparents of ours may have thrown their immense privilege away, but that kind of life has been given back to us as believers in the work of Jesus.

Seeking God as our priority, seeking our blood won place with God, is the most intelligent posture any one of us can take if we say that we follow Jesus. Spending time with Him is our proper place and our priority place if we say that we are His. Intimate fellowship with Him is the place that Jesus spent most of His time. It is the place that all of mankind has been formed for.

Since the cross, anyone who submits to Jesus, once again, has the Garden of Eden kind of open invitation to intimacy and interaction. We, once again, have a reserved place in the heart and a reserved seat on the lap of almighty God. While there He shows us that, after all that He has done, He has kept the right to take care of us for Himself. He still desires to be our God, and we are to be His people.

Intimate communion with Father God opens the door to His heart. It is how we get to know Him, and how we can rest in the truth that He also knows us and will take care of us. When we are with Him, He reveals everything that He is, that He has, has done, and will do for us as our God. His delight is revealing Himself and His ways to us so that we will understand our true place with Him, and never want to leave. He also reveals our purpose for being born and His plans for our lives.

Part of that revelation is enough of a glimpse of the Kingdom in which He lives and in which we now have been formed to live. He shows us how we are to participate in it while still on earth, the same way that Jesus did. Jesus lived on earth, but every one of His attachments and resources was with His Father in heaven. He did and said only what His Father did and said to show us our privilege to do the same. We are formed to live and act as He did, with the same resources He had for doing so.

Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

All of the kingdoms of this world and the kingdom of darkness are aggressively attempting to destroy your will to live in the quiet presence of God, in the kingdom of heaven while living on the earth. All of the enemies of the cross want you and me to focus on them, rather than spending time with God so you can focus on the Kingdom of God and the wonder of Jesus love for us.

Once you were born of God through the full submission of your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ there is much spiritual effort against your entering the Christ-like kind of living that God intends for you. The rulers of the lower kingdoms despise the fact that you have open access to God for the power to overcome their former rule over you. They know that once you have time with God through Jesus as your priority, all of the strongholds of this world and the kingdom of darkness will fall away.

Only as it is fully understood that there is no possible way to live as Christ lived without the Holy Spirit allowing His Spirit to live through you and me can we enter into the wealth of God's Kingdom. Only

continual, aggressive repentance for our lack of desire, and inability to even want to make time with God our priority allow His power to be worked in us.

Only our full submission to the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome any and all power holding us under the kingdom of this world or in the kingdom of darkness will allow change to take place in us so that seeking the Christ-like life that God has for us becomes our only reason for living. Aggressively seeking God to do it in you and me by the immeasurable power of His Holy Spirit is our proper place as followers of Jesus and should be our only quest. We must aggressively pursue our privilege at any cost.

Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

As unusual as it may seem, resting in God through Christ and aggressive repentance of our independence, go hand in hand. As we fully understand that we have no power to change ourselves, and as we have settled in our heart that our loving Father is delighted to do all of the needed work in us by His power, we can rest in the fact that, as we acknowledge our need, He will do the work. We can also cease from doing anything in our own power, the same way that Jesus lived.

Once we understand that it is an all powerful God, One Who is very capable, One Who has promised to complete the work that has been started in us, we can take comfort in the fact that He can actually do it. Fully understanding His overwhelming power in comparison to the powers of the lower kingdoms, gives us an assurance that we can rest from ourselves while He completes whatever He chooses to accomplish in us and in His eternal plan. He desires to be with us. He spent the life of His Son to buy back our access to Him. In Jesus, He has done, and will continue to do, whatever it takes to bring us to Himself.

Begin to rest with God, allowing him to really be God in your life. Go to Him in the quiet confidence that He is Who He says He is. Rest on His lap while you wait for Him to complete His Word in you and His Words to you. He is The Almighty Creator Who has formed you for Himself. He has invited you to be with Him now, in this life, and forever.

For thought or discussion:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal your real priorities to you

Is it important that your life has left a significant impact for Jesus in your circle of influence