

Resting in God
"Knowing that you delight His heart by surrendering yours"

Study 10

Acts 3:5-7 (New International Version)

5) So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6) Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."

7) Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Peter could give away what Jesus would have given the man because Peter had been consumed by Jesus. He had something that he was able to impart to the person in need of a supernatural encounter. He was able to walk beyond the kingdom of the world, overcome the kingdom of darkness and live within the Kingdom of heaven with Jesus for the benefit of the person in need because that is where Jesus had taught him to live. He was used by Jesus to show the power of the cross to those around him.

Jesus said that these things, and greater things will follow us as we surrender everything we are to God and allow Him to move through us to bring glory to himself and the work of the cross. Our full and complete surrender to Christ in us is the very entrance to allowing that same Christ to be able to work through us.

Anyone walking in the Kingdom of heaven looks past everything in the kingdom of this world, nullifies anything of the kingdom of darkness, and sees only truths from the place that God exists. They see what God sees. They hear only what He tells them. They move in His power through Jesus. That is supposed to be you and me.

When Jesus walked on this earth, He did nothing of Himself. He was in full submission to His Father's will. Now His Spirit lives in each of us so that we can flow in the same kind of loving obedience. We have the freedom to believe in no ways but God's ways, no love but God's love, no power but God's power. Living this way, we see past the lower kingdoms and reside in the Kingdom of heaven with Jesus as the natural flow of the life that Jesus won for us at the cross. It is a life that is above all of the ways of the world so we can impart to others what Jesus would give them.

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.

Someone once said that we should never trust a person with spiritual things unless they have a limp, referring to the life of Jacob, who wrestled with God. Peter had encounters with God that destroyed his pride and self worth. He was aware of his spiritual need, realizing his inability to be anything without the power of God. In his submission and brokenness, he gained spiritual wealth. He could be trusted by God with spiritual matters because there was nothing left of him to get in the way.

If you have not been dealt with by God, you are not trustworthy. If you are under the influence of anyone who has not been dealt with by God, they are not trustworthy. If you are being dealt with by God, you can rejoice, God is making you trustworthy. He is forming you to be able to walk in the Kingdom of heaven with Him for the benefit of those He loves on this earth. After the completion of each encounter with God, you will have a noticeable humbling. Your flesh will have a noticeable limp. It will not be as strong as it was before your encounter with God.

Those who intensely desire to attain the Kingdom of heaven in their lives will embrace every opportunity to have God deal with their flesh. Refiners fires will become the welcomed gifts that they are intended to be, knowing that there will be a little less of our own ways on the other end of the fire, and a little more of God's ways in us.

The closer you come to Jesus, the more intensely you desire Him to give death blows to every part of you that does not serve Him fully. Aggressive submission to the Holy Spirit for Him to make changes in you and its companion, humble repentance, acknowledging the need for those changes, becomes a way of life for those who want it all from God. In our total submission, we become free, fulfilling the promise that Christ sets us free. In that freedom from ourselves, we can walk in the freedoms He has, with Him, in His world, the Kingdom of heaven.

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.

You need to begin to rest in the fact that you have a loving Father that will keep His promise to set you free from the entanglements of your fleshly desires, making you resemble Jesus more each day. He is, systematically replacing you and all of your old ways with the ways of Jesus. There is a transfer taking place every moment whether you feel it or not.

Often, every one of us feels that we will never change. We think that the heavens are brass; that God has forgotten us, or at least is too busy to continue His work in us or answer our prayers. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

God cannot stop working on your behalf. If He did, He would be violating His covenant promise to all of mankind. That is impossible, so you can be sure that no matter how you feel, no matter what little progress you may observe in your life, much is being done. Beyond what you can see, in your inner being, in the heavenlies on your behalf, in others, your Father God is causing all things to be completed in you for His glory. You can count on it. In fact, you must count on it or you will be fair game for the lies of the other kingdoms.

Begin today to rest with God. Allow Him to work at His pace, where He wants, when He wants, however He wants on your behalf. Honor Him by submitting to the fact that He really is the only God of your life. Delight His heart with your submission. Bless Him by trusting Him. It is the only truthful way to live.

For thought or discussion:

Ask the Lord to reveal what it would be like to have such freedom at your disposal when it is needed

What needs to be done in you to be able to walk up to a person with a physical need and give them what Paul gave