

Resting in God
"Counting on the fact that God is bigger than you"

Study 11

Philippians 4:13 (Amplified Bible)

I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

Living in the Kingdom of heaven while walking on this earth, is achieved by the full understanding that only Christ himself can accomplish His ways in any of us and the full submission to those ways. The idea of being totally sufficient in all things through His sufficiency is freedom. To be ready for anything and equal to anything by being empowered by Jesus is a place far above the fears and challenges of the world. It is a place of complete peace.

Even though the kingdom of this world is passing away, it continues to vie for a dominant place in our lives, even as followers of Jesus. Self powerful men boast of their authority even though it is a puny authority with extremely limited scope compared to the Kingdom of heaven, where are called to reside while here. Nations gather to shake their fist at God and his ways, proclaiming their independence from Him. Residents of the lesser kingdoms choose to hate, demean and even kill anyone who has found the better way in Christ. They are all paper tigers, roaring into the darkness and flexing miniscule muscles that are unrecognizable in the Kingdom of God even though they seem very large to us.

Anyone who has chosen to live above all of these temporary threats can do so in the power of Christ. Since Jesus is the Lord over all of the creations of God, His power to overcome is more than sufficient to meet any and every need we may have. When we have surrendered to the fact that Jesus has earned the right to live through us, where we go, and who we are in contact with, actually comes in contact with the Spirit of Christ Himself. His sufficiency meets any challenge head on and destroys it, no matter how large it may have appeared to be to our carnal mind. There is no real power but God's power. There is no force that is stronger than the force of the work of the cross, no matter how loud it roars, or how strong it may appear. When living in the Kingdom of God with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit, He becomes our sufficiency. Submitting to that sufficiency, acknowledging Him in all things, infuses that inner strength into us.

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 places that the lower kingdoms have told us are safe and secure, are being proven to be nothing but smoke and mirrors. They hold no truth, especially when the truth of the Kingdom of heaven is presented.

If you ever want to be encouraged, read the testimonies of the hero's who trusted God through very dark times. Study how ordinary men and women were able to do extraordinary things through the power of Christ in them.

So often we, as Christians, are intimidated by what we see and feel. We have a habit of responding to the pressures and tactics of the lower kingdoms. What we don't realize is that irreparable harm is done to those kingdoms when we simply submit our fears and limitations to God. We advance His Kingdom by our surrendering our miniscule power to His almighty power. When we trade who we are for who God wants us to be, He destroys everything that hinders us from allowing Jesus to flow through us mightily. He overcomes while we rest in Him.

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.

Christ's power will come when it is needed. That may seem like an elementary statement, possibly even an ignorant one, but it is vitally important to remember. The power of Christ residing in each of us will rarely be seen unless the circumstances warrant it. Stated in a more positive form, the power of Christ in us will always manifest itself when needed if we surrender to it.

In small ways, every one of us has experienced times when we were able to speak a proper word, remember that specific verse, or do that needed thing. After it was over, we would marvel at the unknown resource that came forth. Well, the Holy Spirit simply released the power of Christ through you when it was needed. It was there all of the time, it was simply needed at that specific moment.

Living fully in God's final frontier, the kingdom of heaven with Christ, is going to become an astounding adventure with incredible opportunity to marvel at the wonder of what God has done in those of us who have surrendered our entire being to Him.

The hidden treasure of Christ being in us provides limitless platforms to express His glory and power whenever it is needed. We will walk as Paul walked. We will not deny His name. We will do more that Jesus did, just as He promised we would.

Because we will be completely dead to ourselves, because we have completely renounced the lower kingdoms, because we will have asked for Him to be formed completely in us, we will be able to observe the living Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit do wonders through us. We will be able to understand that nothing of ourselves has accomplished what has transpired and marvel at the wonder of our salvation. We will actually be observers delighting in the incredible work that has been done through us and rejoice in His holy name and God's holy work.

Ask God today to relieve you of the pressure of trying to become more like Jesus. Ask Him to allow you to submit to His promise to do it all. Ask Him to give you a confident rest in his faithfulness. Begin to delight in the fact that He is a big enough God to be able to do more than we can see. Get ready to have Him amaze you as He uses you beyond your wildest dreams. Get ready to be amazed by your God as the Christ-like responses flow through you when they are needed.

He is God. His promises will prevail. His kingdom will be advanced through you if you surrender to it. He will be glorified by your life if you give it away and allow Christ to live through you. You are His child. You can count on the fact that He will show you to be part of His family to others as Christ is seen in you.

For thought or discussion:

Carry the idea of having the sufficiency to be everything God intends for you to be as far as the Holy Spirit leads you

Ask the Lord to reveal the sufficiency of His keeping power

Think of the idea of living in the state of completion where no mountain is too big and no power is too strong for Christ's sufficiency