

Resting in God
"Trusting in the fact that our God is really an all powerful God"

Study 15

Romans 11:36 (Amplified Bible) For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. [For all things originate with Him and come from Him; all things live through Him, and all things center in and tend to consummate and to end in Him.] To Him be glory forever! Amen (so be it).

Everything that exists or has ever existed comes from God. It all has its being because God has determined that it should live. Everything that has life, continues to live only because God gives it permission to live. It is His power that maintains the life that we all have.

In the end of all things, those who chose to submit to the life that God has for them through Jesus Christ will be the crowns that glorify Him throughout eternity. All others will be separated from Him forever, just like they chose to do in the angelic rebellion and those who denied Him during their lives on earth.

Everything of worth glorifies the name of Jesus, both in heaven and on earth, now or for eternity. That is eternal truth. To do less takes on some form of self worth, pride, or god-like quality. It is the purest form of rebellion.

The Kingdom of God eventually discards those who choose not to live in it. Since God is all things and in all things, He is the Kingdom of heaven. It cannot exist without Him any more than anything else He has created. To live outside of the Kingdom of heaven is to live outside of the fullness of God. Anyone who chooses to do so pays the penalty of separation from Him.

Through Jesus, God has chosen to have mercy on us by allowing Himself to live inside of us and through us while He does a final work in our completed salvation. He promises to hold on to us while we find the truths of total surrender, and complete Lordship of Jesus Christ. Because Christ, Who is God, lives within us, we will never be separated from Him for all of eternity.

That same Christ, walks with us as we learn to reside in the Kingdom of heaven while we are still on this earth. He is doing the work. He is protecting us from eternal harm. He is teaching us how to love as He does. He is revealing Himself and His Father to us through the Holy Spirit. He has begun the work in those of us who are His and He will complete that work in us. Our job is to only surrender to His work. The wonder of Him is the fact that He has even retained the right to form us to learn that kind of surrender.

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.

Anyone who has walked in the Lordship of Jesus Christ realizes that there is absolutely nothing of worth in themselves. Although highly valued for who they are in Christ, nothing of who they are in the flesh is even remotely interesting to God, except that He wants to eliminate it in us. Therein lies our challenge.

Our flesh is totally dominated by the kingdom of darkness and the kingdoms of this world. Any time we live in a carnal way, we are rejecting the way that God would have us live. The problem is, that, until we have allowed the Lord to have His way in us enough to decide to live in the Kingdom of heaven, we love the things of the flesh that tantalize us, whether they be vices or learned habits that have pleased us for years. We don't want to let go of those things that satisfy or please us, even though they harm us, and even though there is a far better life if only we would surrender to it.

I often use the analogy of the blanket or whatever that we had that comforted us when we were a baby. In our infancy, there was nothing more satisfying and comforting. To do without that piece, whatever it was would leave us empty, without any feelings of comfort. We loved childish things because we were children, unable to comprehend life without our childish loves.

The day came, however when we could put aside our trinket of satisfaction and embrace life without its hold on us. What would have caused us great distress if it had been ripped from us before we were willing to give it up, easily was set aside when we saw a better way. In actuality, we matured past that need, and embraced other, hopefully more mature ways of being satisfied.

Although the lower kingdoms are more than willing to provide ways for us to be fulfilled, the only true way is through Christ, living His ways with Him in the Kingdom of heaven and of God. Deep in our hearts we know that truth, sometimes, however it seems impossible to attain.

Without the Holy Spirit working in us the maturity that it takes to set aside the trinkets that please us, the life of Jesus is impossible to attain. He has, however, promised to do it is us. He has promised that He will mature us in Him until His coming if we persist in needing Him to change our taste buds from those in the world to those in His kingdom. He wants us to have us give up our baby blankets, trading them for the wealth of knowing him intimately, all the while holding us close to Himself. That is a trade worth pursuing.

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.

God originated our lives. He originated the opportunity for us to be saved from our sin. He originated the opportunity for us to go as deep as we desire to go in Jesus, all the way to becoming like Him if we so choose. He is the originator of it all. He is the keeper of everything.

We can rest in the fact that as perfectly as He has designed everything, He will keep it. He has the power to maintain all that He has created. He has the power to accomplish all that is needed in us to overcome all challenges from the lower kingdoms. He is God! Jesus is the Lord over everything. The Holy Spirit is unstoppable. Maybe its time that we surrendered to that place of rest of trusting God to be our God.

For thought or discussion:

If God is really the initiator of all things, why is there evil in the world

Do you really feel owned by God