

Resting in God  
"The wonder of turning our eyes to God"

Study 20

*Galatians 4:19 (New International Version) My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you*

Living as Jesus lived on this earth is a wonderful, life long experience for those who are willing to pay the price of getting there. It costs the believer everything that they held dear while they were in the world. With the astounding benefits of knowing God intimately and being invited into His presence anytime, come some responsibilities, however. Knowing God, and knowing His heart that none should perish becomes our heart, and our desires.

Paul grieved over the way people were living while calling themselves followers of Jesus. His understanding of the offense their lifestyle was to the cross and to his Father God, caused him to labor for them as a woman who was about to give birth. His heart was broken, because, having spent time with God, he knew that the heart of his Father in heaven was breaking over their foolishness.

Each of us has the privilege of knowing the heart of God for our personal walk and His heart for His people. In these perilous times, it is often so easy to present to Father God the issues that affect us directly. As wonderful as that privilege is, it is a portion of our life with Him. We are to care for the other members of the body of Christ, and for those who don't know Jesus.

So many people who call themselves followers of Jesus don't know how to overcome the perils that are presented to them. They become so engrossed in their own needs, that they are of little use to Him in His desire for souls. All of their time in prayer is for His help in their time of need. They have not found the secret of living above the world in Jesus. Those of us who are able to rest in Christ, must pray that they find the comfort and power we have found. We must petition our Father for their Good.

Those who have need of finding Jesus, have no clue that they even can pray effectively. They don't know that the Father is reaching out to them through Jesus. Not only should we tell them, but we are called to labor in prayer for them as Paul did until Christ is formed in them. We have the great honor of laboring for those who cannot labor for themselves. It is the way of the cross. It is the way of Jesus. It is part of our heritage in Christ.

*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.*

Thinking of ourselves when we understand that there is work to be done gets very old, very soon. To know that we have been formed to be ambassadors for Christ and not become all that we can be to accomplish that, is very unlike the Jesus that we say we serve.

To advance the Kingdom of God we must become like Jesus. There is nothing that we can do in the flesh. It is utter foolishness to attempt to win any kind of spiritual battle with puny carnal weapons.

People can only come to Jesus because they are brought to Him by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual battle. Our understanding of who we are in Christ, our ability to go to God in faith, our understanding that we can play a part in the winning of others, helps advance the kingdom. Our ability to wage war in Christ on their behalf by presenting them before the Father is a death blow to the other kingdoms that have formed in them.

Today, go to God for anyone but yourself. Go to Him simply to praise Him, or thank Him. In the days to come, practice the truth that he understands all of your personal needs and is in the process of fulfilling them His way, in His timing. You will be amazed how much of your time with Him is for you. You may not even get to the needs of others because of your need for repentance. It may take many visits before you can really care for others more than you care for yourself. Once you have this breakthrough of love for others, however, your prater life will begin to be similar to the kind of life Jesus had in prayer. He destroyed the lower kingdoms because He spent His life for others.

Jesus pleased the Father and fulfilled the Father's will. That is how we advance the Kingdom of God in our circle of influence.

*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.*

When we live in turmoil and struggle to be free from our own needs, we have no focus but ourselves. When we rest in the fact that our Father God knows our needs and is in the process of fulfilling them, we are free to help others see the love that Jesus has for them.

Determine in your heart to make the needs of others and the will of God on this earth, a central focus of your prayer life. Get in line with God and His ways. Make His desires your desires through the power of the Holy Spirit. You will be amazed at how fruitful your life will become. You will be amazed at how many of your needs are met, sometimes even before you know that you have them.

For thought or discussion:

Have you ever labored for someone until the will of God was accomplished in their lives

Have you ever labored intensely for the salvation of someone who hates you or laughs at you