

Resting in God
“Allowing Jesus to move freely through you”

Study 26

John 3:5 AMP “Jesus answered, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit, he cannot [ever] enter the kingdom of God.

Jesus loved His cousin John, the one who baptized many before He started His earthly ministry. It must have been difficult knowing that John could never experience the kingdom of God that Jesus was to bring to the world. According to Jesus, John was the very best man ever born of woman. He was greater than any and all of the men born previous to his days, even the kings, prophets, and high priests. Even the least life that was to be lived in the kingdom of heaven while on earth, however, was considered greater than John’s earthly life.

John died before Jesus was raised from the dead so in his lifetime he could never be born of the spirit while alive. He was considered as righteous because of his works for God and held in paradise with all of those who’s obedience to the law counted for them as righteousness. He had to wait there for the resurrection of Jesus and the completed work of the cross. After the resurrection people could be born of the spirit upon their submission to the Lordship of Jesus. The covenant promise that one could enter the Kingdom of Heaven while alive because of being born of the Spirit was never to be his.

No one can live in the presence of God without having the Spirit of God in them. Everyone who is born of woman, the water birth, must experience the radical rebirth of the Spirit of God to be fit to be in the presence of God, either here on earth, and certainly in heaven with God for eternity. Submitting to the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the catalyst that initiates that covenant, address changing promise.

That confession with our mouth makes us eternal residents in God’s future Kingdoms with Him. It also gives the keys to God’s kingdom while we are still in our mortal bodies. We become spiritual beings, living as aliens among the dead and dying, while having potentially uninterrupted communication with God and access to all of His ways.

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.

If you are in Jesus, His Spirit is in you. You are now a spiritual being having a temporary residence in a mortal body. This world is no longer your home. Your only purpose for remaining here is to do the work of God. You are to allow Jesus to live through you as He touches others.

As Jesus spent time with His Father for comfort and directions to advance the Kingdom of heaven on earth, you are to do the same. On His lap you destroy the lower kingdoms. In His presence you become more and more familiar with your new home and how to live in it with Jesus. You also learn how to live there spiritually now to accomplish the plan of God for your life. Overcoming all challenges by the power of Christ in you, God can extend His hand to those who need to see who Jesus is and how He lived.

Begin today to practice living in the presence of God by simply moving toward Him at every opportunity. Keep pressing in until you become more familiar with Him than you do in the world. Keep surrendering any part of you that doesn’t want to stay with Him. Keep repenting of your independence and rebellion. Become submissive to the complete Lordship of Jesus in everything and in all things.

Soon you will be able to be used by God to present Jesus properly to others. Soon you will be an example of the work of the Cross and the power of the Word. Signs and wonders will follow as His Word is lived and confirmed. You will be advancing the Kingdom of heaven and destroying the lower kingdoms.

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 soon as you realize that you can only give to others what you have received from God, you will be able to rest from all of your striving. Carnal spirituality is of no effect. It is simply dead religion, unable to accomplish anything eternal.

Jesus died so that His Spirit could live and move through you. You are now His hands and feet. You are His ambassador, presenting Him to others. You need to rest from any self effort to represent Him. Your place is on the lap of your Father God to receive everything that is needed for each day. Allow Him to be your every provision. Allow Him to be your power through the power of the Holy Spirit. Your puny strength, wisdom and power is useless to distribute the eternal wealth that Jesus has to give. The more you rest in your weaknesses, the more you cease from striving to accomplish spiritual things in your carnal limitations, the more His power can flow through you.

For thought or discussion:

Do you understand what has happened to you with your new birth

How many ways have you misused this privilege