

Resting in God

“The peace of knowing that we are welcome in His presence because of Jesus”

Study 3

1 John 2:6 (Amplified Bible) Whoever says he abides in Him ought [as a personal debt] to walk and conduct himself in the same way in which He walked and conducted Himself.

The thought that each of us who love the Lord can walk in exactly the same way that He walked while on this earth is foreign to us because of everything that is in front of us. People with mean hearts and loud voices cause us to fear. Society threatens our beliefs. Most of all, because we see our failures, because we see our sin so often, we give up even hoping that we can walk far above them in the same way that Jesus did.

That is not how our Father God has designed our new life, however. He has called us to walk as Jesus walked, and has placed His Word and His promises for us as our guarantee. He promises to accomplish His desires for us, in us, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our portion is to seek after and submit to His will and rest in His promises.

If we observe the life of Jesus, we see that His way of living is not controlled by any kingdom but His Father's. His life was perfect in a very imperfect world. In living in His Father's Kingdom rest while on the earth, nothing could touch Him. Nothing or no one had any control over Him. He was absolutely free from all of the limitations, dictates and demands of the other kingdoms.

During His life, Jesus raised the dead, fed the poor when no food was available, healed the sick, left and came back to earth, and jumpstarted the same kind of life in those He picked to follow Him after He went back to His Father. He delighted in showing His friends how they were about to live after He defeated the death of this world.

His astounded followers were, I'm sure, wide-eyed and open mouthed when He lived so far beyond the life that they had grown accustomed to. Walking on water or calming a storm was just not something that they saw everyday. However, complete control over all of the earthly elements was part of His life as much as breathing was to theirs.

The world is supposed to see that men and women who live in Christ in heaven and *in whom Christ and heaven live*, are among them. If that were not true, then any kind of religion would be able to affect the world in an eternal way. If that were not true, then the life of Jesus means no more than a man showing others how they could live a good life and die a cruel death at the hands of others that appear stronger than He. If that were not true then God is a cruel Master if He asks us to do something in His Word that is impossible.

But it is true. God has empowered every believer with the ability to live as Christ lived. He has recreated each of us to live where He lives, with Him, now and for eternity. It is true because the same Holy Spirit that lived in Jesus lives in us. It is true, because His Word says so. Anything else is not worth considering if we are to be called followers of Jesus.

As we think about the way Jesus lived, we rightfully marvel at His miracles, and rejoice at His resurrection. We tend to think of the way that He acted outwardly and forget that his outward actions were only the manifestation of His inward understanding of His Father, and his complete confidence in Him. His actions were a result of His inward thoughts beliefs and emotions, His inward character. That same kind of confidence and understanding is available to us, because Jesus is in 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.

The truth that you and I can live as Jesus lived in the world is God's Idea. It is a war that Jesus has already won for us at the cross and a covenant sealed in His blood at the mercy seat in the eternal heavens. Our problem is that we don't spend enough time with the Lord for Him to reveal our ability to thoroughly rest in the Kingdom of God with Him, basking in His love for us.

Spiritual wealth is impossible to comprehend with our carnal minds. It must be given to us by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God working in us. It must be given to us by the Lord himself.

Whenever we spend time with the Lord, He imparts some of Himself to us. We may come to Him for answers to our perceived needs, but His desire is to give us the understanding that our needs will be

taken care of if only we really knew Him. Our battle ground is a struggle against small thinking and carnal reasoning. It is the continual fight to get past what we have been taught to see all of our lives and begin to see what God wants to show us about our new life in His world.

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.

Until we comprehend that our portion in prayer is the freedom to understand that we can do nothing of ourselves to comprehend and walk in God's ways, and that His desire is to teach us those ways, we will remain helpless and hopeless to overcome the lower kingdoms. We will never be able to walk as Jesus walked, or rest in His Father as He did, because we have refused to submit ourselves to God. We have never spent enough time with Him to allow Him to impart the character and passions of Jesus into our inner, eternal being where it is grasped completely and remains forever.

Begin this very moment to honor God by submitting to Him completely through Jesus. He has eternal desires for you. Rest in Him as you wait for Him to complete His work in you. Repent of just wanting what He can do for you in this limited world. Wait on Him at every opportunity and as your priority until He reveals His purposes and pleasures about your life. Determine in your heart that you are finished living a small, limited, fearful life, run by anyone other than Him. Submit everything you are to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ask your Father in heaven to place a determination in your heart to live His Kingdom life through the Lordship of Jesus. Get humbly aggressive in prayer. Have Him give you the determination to settle only for His ways and the quiet peace of knowing that He is with you always. Discard the ways of the world in your heart through repentance and allow Him to impart His ways to you. Ask Him to impart to you the truth that you can live above this world and truly rest in Him as Jesus did. Trust him to accomplish it in you as you begin to delight in His presence. You are as welcome there as Jesus is, so go there often.

For thought or discussion:

Do you really believe that you will someday look and act as Jesus does

How do you approach God