

Resting in God
“Having a heart that has discarded the ways of the lower kingdoms
and is in love only with God’s ways”

Study 30

Philippians 4:6-8 (Amplified Bible)

6) *Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God.*

7) *And God's peace [shall be yours, that tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*

8) *For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them].*

Double-mindedness accomplishes nothing in this world or in our relationship with Jesus. It only brings instability and confusion. Double-mindedness about Who God is to us, and what part we are to participate in His plans, sentences us to remain weak and powerless, vulnerable to the ploys and tactics of the lower kingdoms.

An age old tactic of the enemy is to have believers remain functioning with carnal minds and therefore in the realm of the kingdom of the earth, a realm that is subject to the powers and demands of the kingdom of darkness. They desire for all of mankind to fully understand their limitations and frailties with eyes that see such frailties as weakness, making a person feel as a failure. In doing so, they maintain absolute control and absolute power.

God has commanded that no one will be called Father to us but him. As part of His covenant promise to us, as His children, He has reserved the right to take care of us for Himself as our Father. He continuously asks us to remain in the understanding of our complete helplessness, but with that understanding, a perfect confidence that He will work everything for our good by His Divine power. He will guide us, protect us, provide for us, and instruct us in the way that is safe for us. In our weakness and submission to Him, He is strong for us.

Through the blood of Jesus, we, as believers, can delight in our absolute need of God for everything, just as Jesus did, and be absolutely assured of His meeting that need. Any thought to the contrary is not of God, and not for a follower of Jesus.

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.

Taking thoughts captive, and thinking only on the things that are worthy of reverence, honorable to God, pure, just, lovely, kind, gracious and virtuous is incredibly destructive to the lower kingdoms and advances the kingdom of God immeasurably. When we place no trust in our own thoughts, those that do not line up with scripture, it is warfare on the most powerful battlefield, the mind. Our carnal thinking is where most of the battles that minimize the work of the cross and the wealth of the kingdom are won or lost.

Both of the lower kingdoms have an agenda to keep all of mankind thinking in the realm of their limitations and fears. They and their subjects boast of their power and authority, a continued dominance over mankind. To the believer, it is all lies and deception. It is a realm of bondages that have been destroyed at the cross.

The Word says that you and I have the mind of Christ, a mind receptive to the ways of the kingdom of heaven. Our inner being has been born anew to function in this frontier with Christ. Because our eternal, inner being will continue on into the kingdom with God forever, it delights only in the things of God, it craves to be living and moving and having its life flowing with Jesus even now as we walk through our limited days on earth. When we flow with Jesus we advance His ways, moving through every obstacle

that attempts confine the power of the Holy Spirit. We overcome the limitations of all other ways. We rise above all that hinders the work of God going forth. We see all things as He sees them. In doing so, we move in realms that He is familiar with, places that have no restrictions with powers that are ordained and maintained by God in us

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.

Imaginations of a powerful world and its ways, negative thoughts, unkind thoughts, and thoughts that limit God, are places that the lower kingdoms desire for us to dwell. They are implanted or learned thoughts from one or both of the lower kingdoms and are not truth for followers of Jesus. If the rulers of these kingdoms can keep us thinking on such limited levels, they can eliminate any hope for a better life of rest and peace in Christ.

Once you and I find the wonder and peace of a heart that is fully surrendered to God, we become untouchable to any other kind of life. Our surrender to God and His ways through the Word and through Jesus allows the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome everything that stands in the way of our living with Christ in the kingdom of God.

Resting with God in Christ is our heritage as believers. It is a place won for us by Jesus. It is the good news and joy of our salvation.

For thought or discussion:

How do carnal thoughts or imaginations limit your perspective of God

How does carnal thinking destroy your peace