

Resting in God
“The confidence that you are under the best tutelage possible”

Study 31

Revelation 3:19 (Amplified Bible)

Those whom I [dearly and tenderly] love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten [I discipline and instruct them]. So be enthusiastic and in earnest and burning with zeal and repent [changing your mind and attitude]

Since the industrial revolution, where individuals would build a single portion of any piece of work that was being assembled rather than building the complete piece, the need for a master craftsman has diminished. Unskilled labor, building the individual part over and over again; parts that would be put together by others, facilitated the modern assembly line. Assembly lines allowed a quality product to be built at high speed to meet the cost and volume demands of society.

In past times, however, quality products could only be accomplished by highly skilled master craftsmen who had spent many years learning and refining their techniques and abilities. These craftsmen would pass on their skills to an apprentice, an understudy desiring to attain the craftsman's skills, so that the trade and artistry of the craftsman would not be lost in subsequent generations. This Master Craftsman – apprentice association allowed skills and trades to be preserved over time as they would be passed on from generation to generation, usually father to son.

In its purest form, the master craftsman was passing on much more than mechanical skills. He was imparting to his apprentice his lifelong love for his trade. He was honing proper attitudes and desires in his apprentice so that one day it would be almost impossible to tell any difference in their work. A properly trained apprentice would be able to perfectly duplicate all aspects of the craftsman's skills and abilities to the delight of the craftsman, knowing that the work he loves will be available for others to enjoy for future generations.

During the training period, the craftsman would be in continuous watch over any work being done by the apprentice. Each minute detail of the understudy's progress would be meticulously scrutinized, continuously guided and lovingly corrected when not up to the masters standards. The student in turn would be enthusiastic about any correction, knowing that through it, he would be gaining greater skill. The honorable apprentice would press his own abilities to the limit, knowing that when he can create a piece with the same devotion, tenderness and love as the craftsman, he would be fulfilling the life desire of his trainer and by now, close friend.

Our loving Father is passing His great wealth to each of us through Jesus, very much like the Master craftsman did to his apprentice. He is teaching us how to live as Jesus lived while He was on this earth. His loving hand is guiding our lives so that we become perfect imprints of Jesus, loving and acting as He would. As we become faithful apprentices, others will be able to recognize Him in us in the same way an observer would recognize the work of the master craftsman by seeing the work of the apprentice.

Like the honorable apprentice, our response to any correction, reproof, or “do over’s” should be one of great enthusiasm, knowing that with each interaction, we are gaining more of the needed skills to walk as Jesus walked, representing Him properly and bringing glory to His name. We are learning how to function skillfully in the kingdom of heaven so that our Father's work will be accomplished through 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.

Most of those functioning in the lower kingdoms, (the kingdom of Darkness or the kingdom of this world) would rather be separated from God forever than submit to His way of doing things. Even in Christ, in our pride, few of us desire correction.

As apprentices of Jesus, those studying to learn His skills and His way of doing things, we are called to be different. We are called to take on His heart attitude toward His Father, and toward others. To do so requires complete submission to His will in all things. It requires an enthusiastic attitude toward His correction and reproof. Instead of hiding our flaws, trying to cover up our mistakes and making excuses for our slow progress, we are to delightfully submit to our Father's observations. We are to understand

that He is not a hard taskmaster, but a loving guide, perfecting our lives so that we are free from the effects of the lower kingdoms.

Our attitude determines how much the kingdom of God advances in us and in our circle of influence. Learning the skills of absolute submission to Father God's ways destroy innumerable strongholds in the lower kingdoms. Repentance of our way of doing things brings havoc throughout these kingdoms and advances the kingdom of God in immeasurably. Trading our abilities to gain the abilities of Jesus brings irreparable damage to any plan formed against the plans of God.

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.

Once the mantle of craftsman had been passed from teacher to student, the new master craftsman would function with the same confidence and skill as his teacher. All potential challenges had been addressed during the training period. All artistry techniques had been meticulously analyzed, practiced, and honed to perfection. The transfer of the life skills made the former apprentice ready to approach any situation his new calling would present with the same quiet gifting of his master. He could rest with an assurance of the quality of his education.

In God's plan for us, there is a time of rest if we have unreservedly submitted ourselves to Him through Jesus. Once we have ceased to struggle against God's corrections and refinements, embracing them for the gift that they truly are, we will find absolute peace. Once we have spent enough time with our loving Father for Him to reveal himself and all of His majesty to our inner being, any platform the lower kingdoms would present for us to embrace have no audience. All fear is gone when we completely avail ourselves to the blood bought opportunity to know God. All fear of God is vaporized when we have completely embraced Jesus.

Rest today, even while you in the midst of your training. Rest confidently in the ability of the Holy Spirit to impart all that is necessary for your high quality spiritual education. Rest in the fact that you are being prepared to overcome any and every challenge the lower kingdoms will present to you with the same spiritual empowerment that Jesus had. You are being trained by the Master of everything ever created. You are under His loving guidance. Rest in the fact that He is delighted to impart all that He is to you as loving Father to willing child. Rest in the fact that you are His and He desires to share all that he has with you.

For thought or discussion:

What is your attitude toward your training

How do you respond to the idea of being corrected by the Lord