

Resting in God

“The absolute confidence that He will complete the good work He has begun in us”

Study 4

John 5:30 (Amplified Bible)

I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord--but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.

Jesus was leaving us directions on how to overcome the world with His words and through His submission. He was showing those of us who would follow Him, even centuries later, how our lives could be lived with the same power and authority as His. He was showing us the formula for a perfect life, a life of resting in the full power of His Father.

All authority comes from God. There is no authority above God. In the eternal plan of God, through our submission to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we enter into His kingdom life through submission to His power at the expense of ours. His submission was a guide for us to be able to submit in the same way. Our submission to God in all things allows us to flow in the Kingdom of God, just as Jesus did, in our daily lives.

Most of us foolishly attempt to follow Jesus by observing how He lived and then doing the same as best we can. We attempt to love others as He does, but really have little love in our hearts. We pray as if we believed in prayer as much as He did, but doubt that our prayers will be answered. We do all kinds of spiritual gymnastics to strengthen our faith, eliminate our sin, and represent Him to others properly.

Trusting God to do all things in us, give everything we need to us, and live His life through us, is difficult for us to grasp with our carnal minds. That is why it must be imparted to our inner being through the power of the Holy Spirit. Only God can form in us the ability to live the kind of life that Jesus lived. Only God desires to have the life of Christ completed in us even more than we do.

Part of the work of the cross is to implement the desire that God has to have trustworthy priests and kings to be with Him for eternity. This life is, in essence, the testing and training ground for that end. We are being asked to learn to trust only in God's ways and submit only to God's desires. Each step we take toward that end is met with additional mercy and grace to take the next step by His power. Step after step, empowerment after empowerment, we not only testify of the work of the cross, but we are demonstrating our submission to His power at work in us, and His completed work in us.

In future eternities, there will be no possibility for the rebellion that had taken place in the angelic creation and then in the human creation. The cross and the completed work of salvation in us while on this earth will have eliminated that. God will have trustworthy laborers in His field for all of His other creations.

His elimination of every trace of rebellion and His work in us that leads to total trust and submission are part of the process. What is so marvelous is that the further we choose to go with Him, the more we submit, the less of a hold the world has on us. We, step by step, submission by submission, move closer and closer to the wondrous life that is in Jesus, the life that God has planned for those who He will be with for all of eternity. We reap the benefit of the freedoms that have been bought for us through the cross and rise above all of the strongholds of the world as we embrace the wonder of doing nothing of ourselves. When submitting to the fact that God not only desires to do everything in us, but also desires to be everything for us, we find the kind of rest in Him that Jesus had.

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.

Submission of everything that we are and have to God, our thoughts, our desires, our understanding, is the war against our flesh. It is a battle ground that needs to be fought continuously. Lack of submission to God and every one of His ways is the purest form of rebellion. It makes us useless

to the plans of God, and sentences us to live in the kingdom of this world with its limited resources and intense turmoil. It places us under the authority of the kingdom of darkness.

In the beginning of our life in Christ, as we are learning to trust that our Father God is enthusiastic about seeing Christ completed in us, there will be times that we have little hope as we are shown our helplessness without the Holy Spirit's power. That is part of the process of trusting God. As we press through that fear holding tightly to Him, all the while understanding that if He doesn't do the work in us, it will never get done, we learn to hang on to Him and not our own strength. In our weakness He truly becomes strong.

This "hanging on" is doing much violence in the lower kingdoms. It is accomplishing more than we could ever know. It is the epitome glorifying God and the work of the cross. The ability to hang on to Jesus in our weakness, instead of attempting to be strong in our own might, shows the power that has already been accomplished in us. It may not look like it, we may not feel it, but a great work is being done in us when we are in hopeless need of God to have us make it another moment. In the spiritual realm we are turning our hearts toward Him and away from the world. That is a violent act as far as the lower kingdoms are concerned. That is, however, very good as far as God is concerned. Well done!

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.

Take comfort in the fact that you are no longer on your own, needing to trust in your puny strength to please God. Receive the comfort that all of this really is God's idea. Trust that He is waiting for us to finally trade all of our resources for His mighty ways.

In your quiet times with Him, ask Him to place in your heart a full and complete understanding of His power at work in you. Ask Him to show you the foolishness of relying on any resources you may have that are mightier than His in your mind. Ask Him to reveal to you the foolishness of trusting any of the lower kingdoms for anything good. Quietly begin to take up residence in the most wonderful place there is, in His presence. Begin to make His home, the home that Jesus won for you, your home and place of rest.

For thought or discussion:

Do you balk at the thought of doing nothing of yourself and having no power

How much of your relationship with God is directed by you