

Study Guide
Rest in Peace
Pastor Bobby Davis

Key Verse:

Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

Read the Message translation of today's key verse:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.

Matthew 11:28-29 (MSG)

Is your life being driven by a desire to be “good enough”?

Are you resting in the love of Jesus and allowing Him to lead, feed, and guide you?

Religion can be compared to a cowboy – driving the herd with an expectation of performance. Jesus is a Shepherd – feeding and guiding the flock from a place of love and care (relationship).

Read Hebrews 4:1-11.

Do you find it hard to rest in God's grace?

Do you think of God's peace in terms of a future hope, or a present reality?

When does Hebrews 4:7 say tell us we can experience God's rest/peace?

If God is offering for us to enter into His rest/peace “today,” then the question becomes: “How can we increase peace in this society of anxiety?”

The Bible offers us four explanations of how to make sure we don't miss God's peace on earth:

1. The Person of Peace
2. The Promise of Peace
3. The Power of Peace
4. The Protocol of Peace

THE PERSON OF PEACE

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:11-14 (NKJV)

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and He wants us to experience His peace on earth now. However, just because Jesus is the Prince of Peace does not guarantee that we will experience a peace increase.

NO JESUS – NO PEACE | KNOW JESUS – KNOW PEACE

John 17:3 (NLT)

And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.

Read John 8:54-55.

The Greek word for “know” here means “to know intimately through experience.”

Do you know Jesus intimately?

Or – is your relationship with Jesus based more on what you know about Him?

Psalms 103:7 NKJV

He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel.

Many of us have seen the acts of God (just like the Israelites).

Is your focus to see the acts that God can do, or are you seeking to know His ways?

Do you come to church on Sunday only, or do you spend time with God daily?

If we will spend time with God daily like a close friend (not just going to a show but spending quality time in our living rooms talking to Him), then we will start to experience His peace.

Spending time with Jesus privately (at home) increases our experience of Him publicly (at church).

You will have as much of God as you want – just come to Him.

Read Matthew 11:28-29, and pray for God to meet you where you are.