

ENTERING HIS REST – Part 2

Sermon Handout

Speaker: Pastor Eric C Bogan / August 7, 2022

In order to enter into God's rest requires that we **learn** some things ([Matthew 11:28, 29](#)). One of the things we must learn is *how to avoid those things that can keep us from entering His rest*.

We said to you last time that unless we **avoid disputes and strife** we will not be able to enter His rest.

#1 - AVOID DISPUTES AND STRIFE

We are told in the Old Testament how God promised to give Israel *rest from all their enemies* once He brought them into the Promised Land ([Deuteronomy 12:10](#)).

This promise of rest was ultimately fulfilled during the reign of King Solomon, whom God describes as a *peaceful* man ([1Chronicles 22:9 Message Bible](#)). Similarly, if we're going to enjoy God's rest, we must be peaceful people!

Now, when we examine the *names* of the women in [Philippians 4:2](#), we discover an important lesson.

For example, the name **Euodias** means **success** or to **have a good journey**, while the name **Syntyche** means **fate** or to **meet with an accident**. Thus, in this verse Paul is in a sense saying that whether we're *successful* (*Euodias*), or *meet with an accident* (*Syntyche*), LET US BE OF THE SAME MIND! In other words, we must learn to maintain the same mindset no matter what the situation!

Another thing we must learn to do is **avoid doubt and unbelief** ([Hebrews 3:18, 19](#)).

#2 - AVOID DOUBT OR UNBELIEF

Unbelief and doubt, particularly in the *promises* of God, will keep us from entering the rest. This may be why we're admonished not to come short of any of God's promises ([Hebrews 4:1](#)).

It's important that we don't confuse simply 'hearing' God's promise with 'believing' God's promises ([Hebrews 4:2](#)).

The promises of God are of no value (will not profit us) if we do not mix *faith* with them. However, in order to mix faith with what we hear, we must know what *faith* is!

FAITH – *To believe or have confidence in something even though you don't see evidence for it* ([Hebrews 11:1](#)).

This doesn't mean faith is believing without ANY evidence. Instead, it means that we DO NOT base our faith on what we SEE. We base our faith (and our convictions) on what we HEAR God say ([Romans 10:17](#)).

The thing Israel was tested with in the wilderness is their willingness to believe or obey the VOICE OF GOD ([Hebrews 3:7, 8](#)). They provoked God, not because they committed idolatry or sexual sin. They provoked God because they refused to believe or obey His voice!

There's another aspect to faith that we must consider. It has to do with the fact that faith speaks of things as if they *already* exist ([Romans 4:17](#)). We make the mistake of associating faith with things God is *going* to do. But, this is NOT faith.

Entering into the rest requires that we believe that the works are *already* finished ([Hebrews 4:3](#)).

Believing that the works (or the promises) are ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED is what it takes to enter into God's rest ([2Peter 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:12, 13](#); [Ephesians 1:3](#); [Galatians 3:13](#))!