

Last week ... Faith that brings rest

There is a kind of rest that brings faith and there is a kind of rest that doesn't.

Many people cannot come to terms with a faith in God because it is not something they can physically see. We can have hopes based on whatever material things people have.

But this is not hope, but lust. God does not want for us to reach for possessions that only give us things that pass away, God wants us to have a hope for something better, more than we can imagine and that hope in God that is eternal. A body that will never fail or become ill.

In the conclusion last week, the subject was about rebellion, Although Adam and Eve were the first individuals that rebelled, the first significant group were Babylon, so much so that the name Babylon became an example of the embodiment of rebellion and wickedness.

CONCLUSION - Rev 18:7

⁷ In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her heart, 'I sit *as* queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'

Revelation 18:7 is a good example of what the world does. Live in luxury, as a ruler of my life with no consequences.

It is not just the rich who subjugate the poor, but those whose ideals, faith or way of life think they are more important than anyone else and will endeavour to destroy everyone who thinks differently by imprisonment and execution.

The upside of course that God will eventually have the final say. While evil in this world may win out in the short term there will have no place in the eternity that offered to us through our faith in Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION - Hebrews 4:9-11

⁹ There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. ¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

The Full Armour of God - How to build a strong shield of faith

Intro: Setting the Scene

Ephesians 6:16 “In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.”

What the Shield Represents

- A Roman shield was large enough to cover the whole body, reminding believers that faith is all-encompassing.
- Faith is **complete** trust in God's character, word, and works, not vague optimism.
- Faith is active; the wording "**take up**" pictures deliberate, daily action.

Our journey today consists of four parts ...

- 1. Feed your faith with God's Word.**
- 2. Develop a consistent Prayer life.**
- 3. Obey God even when it is difficult.**
- 4. Stand on God's Promises.**

The first two are about how our faith is constructed – what the building blocks of our shield are. The second two are significant areas where the first two are really needed.

Some of the themes that we visit today will be familiar to you. My hope is that today we will feel a greater sense of urgency That growing closer to God not simply a good idea but crucial.

The Full Armour of God - How to build a strong shield of faith

1. Feed your faith with God's Word.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

The point is: Before we can trust, we must listen. But unless God's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

Read the Bible daily.

Meditate on God's Word daily.

Romans 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Psalms 77 uses three verbs that capture the essence of meditation.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; Yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds.

3 verbs in the Hebrew to describe what it means to lay hold of truth: He says: I will remember, I will ponder, and I will meditate.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; Yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

He makes an effort **not to forget** all the Lord has done.

I will ponder all your work and meditate on your mighty deeds.

Memorise key scriptures. Memorize scripture, it's one of the most powerful habits we can build as believers.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

2. Develop a consistent Prayer life.

**1Thessalonians 5:16-18 Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for
you in Christ Jesus.**

Pray continually

**Psalms 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may
the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.**

King David says that sacrifice is a prayer. It also works the other way around: Prayer is a sacrifice. Why? Because it is a gift from us of devotion, praise, and thanksgiving from us that aids in changing our nature from self-centeredness.

3. Obey God even when it is difficult.

Psalm 128:1 Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.

True faith is revealed in moments when God asks us to trust Him, even when we don't understand what exactly is going on.

Following Christ is a daily journey of sacrifice. Every day, we must fight against the desires of our flesh to do God's will.

True obedience often leads us into situations where we must rely fully on God's strength and provision.

The risks involved in obedience are real.

Every act of obedience becomes an opportunity to experience His strength,

The Devil's goal is clear: to kill, steal, and destroy.

So, we must stay alert! Use the tools God has given us to Live, give and build. Not just for ourselves but our fellowship, our family, our friends.

4. Stand on God's Promises.

**Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess,
for he who promised is faithful.**

Understanding this aspect of Hebrews 10:23 helps us realize that our hope is not based on our circumstances or feelings, but on God's unchanging nature. He remains true to His word.

“to the hope we profess” This signifies the hope that has been declared or acknowledged. It points to our shared belief in the promises of God and is central to our faith journey.

“for he who promised is faithful”

This assures us of God’s reliability. His character is one of complete faithfulness and trustworthiness. All He has spoken will come to pass.

Joshua 21:45 “Not one of all the Lord’s good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.”

Conclusion

I need to ask you to get a grip.

If you are unsure, or, if you are honest with yourself,

**Prayer, Gods word, your leaders here and the family
that is this fellowship**

In the end though it is up to you

And finally ...

Conclusion

We need the wisdom only a true and certain faith will bring.

Proverbs 3:1-6

My son do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, ² for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. ³ Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴ Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man. ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.