

Passage: Hebrews 4:1-16

Title: Putting the Word to Work

Summary: In our passage today, we see the children of Israel could not enter into the rest of the Promised Land because of their unbelief. The Lord says the same can be true for us. But the Lord makes it really simple how to enter into His promises, and it is by we are told in our passage “the word mixed with faith”. In this chapter we will see how to more than just read God’s Word, but to put it to work for our good and the promises of God.

Hebrews 4 (NKJV) ¹ Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. ³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: “So I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest,’” although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all His works”; ⁵ and again in this place: “They shall not enter My rest.” ⁶ Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, “Today,” after such a long time, as it has been said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.” ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 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. ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. ¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Addressed to Believers being Drawn back into Judaism

This book is addressed to Hebrew Believers, who were being pulled back into Judaism. Pulled back into traditions, into the temple and sacrificial system. They were being pulled back into religion and rituals, and were losing focus on all that Jesus had done.

Book is About the Superiority of Christ

This book is about the superiority of Christ. He is the supreme God who demonstrated He is worthy to be praised and to be Lord of our life.

Outline of the Book of Hebrews:

- Chapter 1 – Christ and His Deity: The Son of God
- Chapter 2 – Christ and His Humanity: The Son of Man
- Chapter 3 – Christ and His Faithfulness: He is Greater than Moses
- Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete
- Chapter 5 – Christ and His Priesthood: Our Great High Priest
- Chapter 6 – Christ and His Finished Works: Our Full Assurance
- Chapter 7 – Christ and His Everlasting Priesthood: According to the Order of Melchizedek
- Chapter 8 – Christ and His New Covenant: The Old Covenant is Obsolete
- Chapter 9 – Christ and His Mediation: Our Sin is Paid in Full
- Chapter 10 – Christ and His Sacrifice: The Animal Sacrifices are Insufficient
- Chapter 11 – Christ and His Faithful Followers: the Hall of Faith
- Chapter 12 – Christ and His Endurance: The Author and Finisher of Our Faith
- Chapter 13 – Christ and His Calling to Us: Our Conduct

Theme of the Book of Hebrews:

*(Hebrews 1:1 NKJV) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,
(Hebrews 1:2 NKJV) has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.....*

The message is complete, God has spoken through the Son, there is nothing more to say.

Recap 1-2-3

In chapters 1 and 2 we saw that Jesus is superior to the angels, and we saw His Deity and His humanity. In Hebrews 3 we saw that Jesus is superior to Moses”. We saw that Moses could lead them out of Egypt, but he couldn’t lead them into the Promised Land, he couldn’t lead them into their rest. Why?

[\(Hebrews 3:19 NKJV\)](#) So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Unbelief Kept them Out

Do you see there in verse 19 the thing that kept them out of the blessing was unbelief? I would think they couldn't enter because of their lack of devotion, gross sin, lack of purity, lack of dedication, but it was unbelief - the failure to believe it and receive it. So too is it true for us, the thing that will keep us out of God's blessing is not our devotion or dedication, but simply not believing that God is who He says He is, and can do what He says He can do.

This Study, we will look at:

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

- Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)
- Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)
- Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)
- Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

[Hebrews 4:12 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

[Hebrews 4:16 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)

[\(Hebrews 4:1 NKJV\)](#) Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

We Should Fear Not Entering His Rest

What should we be afraid of, what should we fear? We should be fearful of not entering into God's rest. Unbelief will keep you from entering into His rest!

Israel Limited / They Limited Jesus / Jesus Marveled

We have read that Israel limited the Holy One because of unbelief. Read Psalm 78 for a quick history of Israel's disobedience and unbelief.

Jesus could do no mighty work in His hometown because of unbelief

[Matthew 13:57–58 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁵⁷ So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." ⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Jesus marveled at their unbelief

[Mark 6:6 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁶ And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

It is True – Believe It

And here in this verse, the fear is that we would say it is too good to be true, all his promises are too good to be for me. The author is telling these Jews don't go back to Judaism, don't go back to religion, Jesus is the ultimate rest, He is the final rest. Brethren believe it! It is so good, it has to be true. All His blessings are for us, and He wants us to have them.

(Hebrews 4:2 NKJV) For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Word Not Mixed with Faith

Why should we believe? Because the Good News, gospel means "Good News." The message was preached to Israel, the good news, there is a land flowing with milk and honey, it is yours for the taking, go get it.

Notice:

but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

NOT being "mixed with faith"

Mixing the word and faith. The word mixed means (to combine and unite into one structure). It is like mixing all the materials needed for concrete. That is the picture given here, like mixing concrete to lay a foundation down, and then to build up upon. Last study we said Jesus is the master builder and He is building Himself something, a church and a bride. He builds by mixing the word and faith into one, and building up and off of.

When I worked at Space Center, when we launched a rocket, we were only maybe 400 yards from the rocket that had oh about 100,000 gallons of highly explosive fuel on it. Well we sat in what was called a "block house", and it was basically a bunker that was designed that if the rocket literally hit it, we would survive. It was built with double concrete walls, with 6 foot of sand between the walls. It was a bunker that could take a direct hit, and Christian when we mix the word and faith together, that is exactly what God builds into our lives, a bunker that can take a direct hit from anything and everything.

We Grasshoppers – They Giants / This Can't be True

Now regarding our passage today, the children of Israel when they came into the Promised Land to spy it out (those 12 spies), ten of them came out and saidBut they said ohh no, we're just grasshoppers, there are giants in the land, we can't take it, it can't be true. These people heard the good news but didn't mix it with faith. What will keep you from the blessings for you and your family and your ministry, simply this, not believing what God says, not applying His Word mixed with faith.

Numbers 13:31–33 (NKJV) ³¹ But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." ³² And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. ³³ There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."

How do I Apply It / Peter the Example

Application: how do I apply this thing called faith to my life, how do I do it practically? How do I apply the Word mixed with faith? We see Peter give us the example in Acts 12.

Acts 12:1–10 (NKJV) ¹ Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. ² Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. ³ And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. ⁴ So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. ⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." ⁹ So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to

the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

Recap Story

Peter is imprisoned because King Herod had just killed James and saw that the people loved it, and it made him popular. So he arrested Peter and planned on killing him as an encore. But while Peter was bound in prison an angel came to him, the night before he was to be killed. Now Peter was bound with chains, chained to two soldiers, and there were two guards at each of the prison doors. Peter was asleep and the angel poked him in the side (imagine that), the loosed the chains and said get up Peter, get your running shoes on we're out of here. So out they went, the prison doors opened wide for Peter with guards oblivious to it all. As Peter walked out the prison Peter wasn't sure if he was dreaming or it was real, then when he got outside the gates of the city the angel left him, and Peter knew it was real. You know the rest of the story, Peter goes to the house where the prayer meeting was (praying for his release), knocks on the door, and they don't believe it was him. He has to knock twice before they let him in.

2 Choices

Now, when the angel said "Let's Go", Peter had two choices, he could have rolled back over to sleep still bound in his chains, and said naah this is too good to be true, it's only a dream, I can only dream of being free.

Main Point

OR, He could get up and go. **HAD PETER NOT STOOD UP AND STEPPED OUT AND STARTED MOVING, HE WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN IN HIS PRISON.**

How about You / Just Stay in Prison / Claim it for Heaven

How about you, God gives a promise to you, a promise to me, and we say: well that's a nice thought, but it can't really be true, it is just something to dream about. It can't really mean that I can step out this thing into something wonderful. I'll just stay stay here in my prison and wait for my death and be content with the thought that the promise is really talking about when I get to heaven, and not today for me to claim.

Lord Says "get up, step out, go for"

Hey you, the Lord is saying, get up, step out, go for it, and you will discover it is reality. God is doing a work in your life.

Apply the Word in Your Life – Mixed with Faith

THE WORD MIXED WITH FAITH MEANS WE STAND UP, STEP OUT, AND START MOVING. The word is given and you put it into operation:

- I believe you will never leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5), So I am going to step out into the ministry and serve you no matter how scary it may seem.
- I believe in train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he shall return (Proverbs 22:6), So today I am going to pray for my child believing you will do I work, I praise you in advance for what you will do in his life.
- I believe God will supply all my needs (Philippians 4:19), So I will continue to give to the works of saints trusting you will supply my needs
- I believe all things work together for good (Romans 8:28), So I am going to love my spouse and fight for my marriage and take the past pains and use them to strengthen our marriage.
- I believe God will be with me even to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8), So I am going to go on living and praising and witnessing of You to all that will listen, to the ends of the earth.

Start Moving

Whatever the word is that the Lord has spoken, whether it is your family, your marriage, your ministry, stand up, step out, and start moving.

How much Faith does it take / Mustard Seed / Prayer meeting?

How much faith does it really take on our behalf, about as much as a mustard seed.

(Matthew 17:20 NKJV) So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

That is about how much the disciples had who were in that prayer meeting. They were having a prayer meeting specifically for Peter's release, and when it happened, they couldn't believe it.

Acts 12:12-17 (NKJV) ¹² So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. ¹³ And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. ¹⁵ But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." ¹⁶ Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place.

Prayer all it takes to Get it Moving

I believe prayer is all it takes to get things moving, because God is a loving Father who wants to bless His kids. Prayer is all it takes for chains and prison doors to open. Great things happen when you take God's Word and apply faith to it.

Don't Over-Analyze

Now Israel had heard the good news in the wilderness but they wouldn't apply faith to it, and they wandered and wasted forty years of their life. I think we can spend too much time analyzing the situation and it gives us cold feet. Israel for instance when the Red Sea opened, they had enough faith to go through the water walls, trusting that they were not going to collapse on them. If God could do that, then surely He could wipe out mere giants in the Promised Land. But I think they had too much time to analyze what was before them in entering the Promised Land, and then their reasoning got in the way. If God's given you something to do, get up and get busy before you talk yourself out of it.

Next 2 Points

The author will make two direct points to his Jewish readers; their rest is not in the Sabbath nor the Promised Land. He has to dispel that from their minds in order for them to see the greater rest that is in Jesus Christ.

Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)

(Hebrews 4:3 NKJV) For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

*"So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest,' "*

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

(Hebrews 4:4 NKJV) For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way:

"And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";

(Hebrews 4:5 NKJV) and again in this place:

"They shall not enter My rest."

(Hebrews 4:6 NKJV) Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

This is a quote from Psalm 95 (twice) and Genesis 2.

Psalm 95:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

Genesis 2:2 (NKJV) ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

Psalm 95:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'

Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

Faith is Relaxing

Faith is so relaxing, it is rest. Unbelief and doubt is what will churn your stomach and keep you up all night.

Sabbath / 6&1 / Still future Psalm 95 – Looking Unto Jesus

Now the author is writing to Jewish people, and they related rest to the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the one day off a week, which was patterned after God's six days of creation and resting on the seventh. But Psalmist in Psalm 95 is talking about a rest that is still future, it is talking about a rest deeper than the Sabbath Day, something so deep it was established before the foundations of the world.... a resting in Him, that He is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. There is nothing more we have to look forward to today, because rest has come, and the name of rest is Jesus.

Meribah and Massah

I find Psalm 95 so applicable for us, and I believe a reason have rest, or times we don't have rest. The author here has twice quoted. In the context, verse 11 is with 8-9

Psalm 95:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

Psalm 95:8–9 (KJV 1900) ⁸ Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, And as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: ⁹ When your fathers tempted me, Proved me, and saw my work.

Psalm 95:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹ when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Underline those words "in the provocation" and the word "temptation." These words are Meribah and Massah in the Hebrew. See the ESV translation which literally uses the words Meribah and Massah. They have been translated in the King James Version following the Septuagint and other ancient versions. Many scholars feel they should have been left to stand untranslated. In the Revised Version, for instance, the verse reads: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the wilderness."

The names Meribah and Massah take us back to the story of the exodus. We turn first to Exodus 17:1–7. The children of Israel complained and murmured against Moses and God about there being no water. It was the place that God provided them water from the Rock, which was a picture of Jesus.

Exodus 17:1–7 (NKJV) ¹ Then all the congregation of the children of Israel set out on their journey from the Wilderness of Sin, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped in Rephidim; but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people contended with Moses, and said, "Give us water, that we may drink." So Moses said to them, "Why do you contend with me? Why do you tempt the LORD?" ³ And the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses, and said, "Why is it you have brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!" ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Now go back to Psalm 95, and look at it again. In verses 1-6 are pure worship, and 7-11 are the flashback to the complaining and murmuring of Exodus 17.

Psalm 95 (NKJV) ¹ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. ³ For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods. ⁴ In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. ⁵ The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, ⁹ When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. ¹⁰ For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.' ¹¹ So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' "

The reference here is to Meribah (Exodus 17). After the Lord had set His people free from their bondage in Egypt, after He had parted the Red Sea for them, they found themselves hot and thirsty. They could have trusted God. Instead, they murmured and complained. The result was hardened hearts. So too, at any given moment, I'm either going to be worshiping or murmuring. Thanksgiving leads to grace and glory. Murmuring, on the other hand, leads to discouragement and depression. Murmuring will take us

down faster than anything else. When do we murmur? More often than not, as with the children of Israel, it's when we're going through a dry spell. And when we're dry, we're vulnerable to complaining. "Don't let that happen," the psalmist says.

The Israelites had seen God's work. So have we. We have seen Him save us from hell, take up residence in our hearts, adopt us as sons and plant us in His kingdom. Therefore, regardless of how dry the day might be, we have more than enough reason to rejoice and worship Him enthusiastically.

The tendency to murmur that began in the dry days at Meribah seemed to set a pattern for the children of Israel. Soon, they began to murmur about everything. It was murmuring that eventually kept them from their destiny, for when they were camped at Kadesh-Barnea on the very border of the Promised Land, they believed the report of the ten spies who complained that the giants were unbeatable rather than realizing that no man was a match for the God who had parted the Red Sea. Murmuring is like cancer—it just begins to spread and take over. How can we keep from murmuring? What is the cure for murmuring? Worship.

Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)

(Hebrews 4:7 NKJV) again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said:

***"Today, if you will hear His voice,
Do not harden your hearts."***

(Hebrews 4:8 NKJV) For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

Quoting Psalm 95 again,

Psalm 95:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ⁸ "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

Again he quotes familiar verses, Psalm 95:7-8. Every Jew had this passage memorized. It was used in Jewish synagogues to call the people to their evening worship. Yet sadly, though the Hebrews heard these words week-after-week, most of them never took heed. Obviously, hearing and heeding are not the same.

Promised Land / Joshua Brought them / Still Future

Some Jews would say the rest spoken of is entering into the Promised Land. But the author is still talking about a greater rest and makes his point in that Joshua did take the people into the Promised Land, yet God still promised a rest that was still yet future. Psalm 95 was written by David long after Joshua took the people into the Promised Land.

People today are Craving

People today are craving what the Jews wanted then, but they will be like them, for they will not enter rest. People today want a Sabbath, a day off. They want a promised land, a great location. The world is saying

- if I can just get a vacation,
- a day off,
- if I can just find a new location to live

then things will be better, then I can rest. But they really are craving, and don't or won't realize, is that they are craving this rest that is spoken of here, the rest that Jesus gives. You can take a vacation, go travel and surf and ski, but it never satisfies, for you are always looking for the next time. What people are really craving for is the Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus Christ. Every man wants peace and security in his life, every man wants to know that tomorrow everything will be alright. That rest and assurance can only come through Jesus Christ, and His finished works.

Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)

(Hebrews 4:9 NKJV) There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.

(Hebrews 4:10 NKJV) For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His.

Not Here on Earth / Nor Work for It

The rest isn't a day or place here on earth, but the rest is in Jesus Christ. That is why Jesus is superior, because the works of man are complete, salvation is secured. The rest being spoken of is giving up on my works to earn my salvation or God's favor. It is not our righteousness or anything we can do, but it is all what He has done, and we rest in that.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV) ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Titus 3:4–7 (NKJV) ⁴ But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Seated / No Seat in Tabernacle/ Work is Done

(Hebrews 1:3 NKJV) who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

He is seated, the works are done. In the Old Testament, there was no seat in the tabernacle. The reason there was no seat was because the work was never done. The sacrifice for sin had to be done over and over. Jesus is seated, because the work, the sacrifice for sin, is done.

In 1 Peter 5:7, says cast all your cares (word is anxiety) upon Him, for He cares for you. The word for care as it points to Him is not the word anxiety, for He is anxious about nothing, because He is resting in His finished work, the word for care is to "take care, cares about". May we rest from our works, and simply rest in His.

1 Peter 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

And now the author goes back to his point about unbelief and how robs the person of rest. He goes back to the final and ultimate rest, Jesus Christ.

Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)

(Hebrews 4:11 NKJV) Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

Diligent – Labor / Corrie Ten Boom

Verse 11 tells us, "Let us therefore be diligent (or literally, labor) to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience.

"This sounds contradictory... we labor to rest? Yet here's the point, entering God's rest does take a major effort. We need to hold fast to Jesus! Have faith in Jesus! Consider Christ! Keep our eyes on Jesus!

We are mixing the word and faith into a solid concrete that is bunker and a foundation that can't be shaken.

Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Look within and be depressed. Look without and be distressed. But look to Jesus and be at rest."

And it takes effort to keep looking in the right direction -to avoid the distractions

Denver Zoo

Years ago the Denver Zoo was given a huge white polar bear the animal was beautiful but the zoo had no place to exhibit the bear. Funds had to be raised to build an environment similar to its natural habitat in the meantime the bear was placed in a small temporary cage the space was so small the bear could only take three steps in any direction turn around and then take three steps in the opposite direction well the bear repeated this pattern over and over. Well after years of construction the bear finally got its new home and it was a magnificent venue it had caves and waterfalls and rocks there was plenty of room for the bear to roam but when he was unleashed he took three steps turned around and took three steps back, the bear repeated the maneuver over and over.

And so too it can be for us that we spend so much time in the place of unbelief they were just walking three feet in each direction while the Lord is spreading His hand saying all this I've given you to enjoy to have to enter in to the abundant life which there you will truly find rest but so often we've conditioned ourselves but this is only as far as we can go and as far as God is and then we find ourselves in anything but rest.

(Hebrews 4:12 NKJV) For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

(Hebrews 4:13 NKJV) And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

It is a Living Word!

The word is living because Jesus is alive! A living God who “speaks” to His people, and that is what makes this word so powerful!

Hebrews 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Powerful (Energy)

4:12. God’s warning from Psalm 95 is still in force. The Word is “quick,” meaning “alive” (zōn emphatically stands first in the verse). It is “powerful,” meaning “active.” It is “sharper than any two-edged sword” because it penetrates more than the physical body. It is comprehensive in its effects. It reaches into all the various parts and functions of the individual and makes judgments. The emphasis is not upon the separation of one part from another, but upon the penetration of all the individual parts, even down to the innermost secrets and purposes which are hidden in the core of an individual’s consciousness, away from the eyes of other people.

I like the word here for “powerful” in the Greek is (energés) and means (at work, active). You see the word “energes” as it so closely translates into our English word “energy”. All work takes energy, and God word is the energy. It is the energy to get work done.

Elk Hunters

Two big game hunters who had traveled to Alaska to bag elk. Well on this trip they shot 6 but when it came time to fly to the valley the pilot of the plane told him he said sorry but my aircraft can only safely carry 4 elk you’ll have to leave two behind. Well, the hunters they protested they said well last year we shot 6 elk and the pilot let us load all six on the plane and it was about the same type plane, the same weather, and the same size elk. The pilot thought for a minute and said oh OK load him up. But sure enough the plane was too heavy and on liftoff it crashed into the mountain side; and as these two hunters staggered away from the wreckage one of them asked where are we, to which his friend replied, well it looks to me we’re in the same place we crashed last year.

And here's the moral of the story, aren't you tired of doing the same thing the same way at the same time and getting the same results why keep crashing. The problem is not your Lord, the problem is not your Bible, it's not the Holy Spirit who empowers, it is our unwillingness to believe God is who He says He is and will do what He says He will do. The problem is not taking Him at his Word. The problem is not putting His Word to work for us.

Back to Verse 2

Back in verse 4:2 it says the word they heard did not profit them. Because they did not mix it with faith. [\(Hebrews 4:2 NKJV\)](#) For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

Romans 10:17

We have to hear the Word first in order to know what we are to apply and mix with faith.

[\(Romans 10:17 NKJV\)](#) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

How do I know what to apply by faith, by the Word.

Be Diligent

This word Diligent in verse 11 means - spoudazo, spoo-dad'-zo; to use speed, i.e. to make effort, be prompt or earnest:--do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.

It is the same word used in 2 Timothy 2:15. The Old King James Version says to "Study to shew thyself approved:

[\(2 Timothy 2:15 NKJV\)](#) Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

God Backs His Word with Himself

How do we know what to apply by faith? It is through the study of the word. And when God gives us His Word, he backs it with Himself. Therefore His word will never return void:

[Isaiah 55:9–11 \(NKJV\)](#) ⁹ "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

That is why verse-by-verse study and teaching is so powerful, it is God's Word going forth, and we know that it will not return void in the reader or listener. It is God giving a piece of Himself out every time we touch this precious Word:

[\(John 6:35 NKJV\)](#) And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

God will never give His Word independent of Himself. His Word is manna from heaven to feed our spirit and soul. When we study this Word, give out this Word, we give out to the person or people Jesus Christ Himself – that is powerful. I challenge you to find something more powerful you can do in this life.

This brings me great comfort, because I don't have to stress myself about being dynamic and energetic, rather I can rest in the truths that I give out this Word, verse-by-verse, I am giving out Jesus.

Luke 4

In Luke 4, We read of the wilderness temptation of Jesus. And we know the power, as Jesus would say, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God." And what we'll see, as we just do a quick look, at Luke 4 is in it, the wilderness wandering, and then the temptation that Satan would bring. We see Jesus with a peace and a power, and for our topic today, a rest. And what we see there is in our passage today, that the word of God is living, it's alive and powerful. The word there is the word that we use for energy. And we use energy to accomplish things, to get work done. So what I would say to you is, as we saw in Jesus, so for us, the word works for us.

[Luke 4:1–13 \(NKJV\)](#) ¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. ³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." ⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your

God, and Him only you shall serve.' " 9 Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. 10 For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' 11 and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' " 12 And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " 13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

Christian, don't just read it, put it to work. Let it do what it was designed to do. When we see Jesus in Luke 4, he's hungry after 40 days. And we see the devil come with the three tactics that he always, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Jesus used the word to work for him and defeat the enemy and bring himself into peace, power, and a rest.

- In the first temptation (Luke 4:3-4), we see the devil trying to get Jesus to respond in the flesh. He's hungry now after 40 days. And yet Jesus uses the word. He puts it to work for him, to speak to his own heart about satisfying the flesh over the Lord.
- And secondly (Luke 4:5-8), the lust of the world. As devil will say, 'I'll give you the whole world if you bow down to me. And he's offering Jesus, "Hey, make a name for yourself. Make a name for you, not God." And so constantly the world calls out to us, "Hey, make a name for yourself, satisfy yourself, take care of yourself." But when we put the word to work for us, we're reminded how this world ain't it, and how fleeting the world is, and hence why we continue to put so much time and effort into our prophecy updates.
- And then lastly (Luke 4:9-12), the pride of life, as the devil takes Jesus up to the pinnacle of the temple and says, "Throw yourself down. He used the word if. But that can be equally translated, since. He's saying, "Since you're God, prove it (tries attacking pride), do something." But Jesus wouldn't. And he rebukes the devil for the third time and the devil flees.

1 John 2:16 (NKJV) 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

What is so fitting there is the devil takes him to the pinnacle of the temple, but not up to Golgotha. The devil knew the location, Genesis 22, where the sacrifice would be made. And see, he would love for Jesus to make claim there at the temple, because then man would've been stuck in the old covenant the whole time, the powerless old covenant, because we all fail. There's no way in our works that we can keep the law. Jesus had to come to fulfill the law and then give us the power to set us free. But just like then, Jesus being tempted by the devil, so does the devil due to us. He wants us to just get close enough, but never fully enter in. "Hey, get close to the promised land, but don't enter into the promised land. Just keep wilderness wandering." There is no rest, Christian, halfway. Ask the children of Israel, halfway between Egypt delivered from the bondage. And right before the promised land, they were dead center in the middle, but they could never enter into the rest for 40 years, as we read as our example today. And the devil so much, he wants us to get close enough, but never fully entered in. But here we see the word, the promises of it. That can take us from that place of being out of the bondage of Egypt, delivered from the punishment and penalty of sin, but the word wants to take us all the way into the promises of God. And that one of them is the power to overcome sin, not just from the penalty, but the power of it. He doesn't want us living halfway. He wants us living in the full glory and Jesus showed us through the word.

Christian put the word to work for you, to seize all the promises of God, to enter into the promised land, a place of rest, that God is who He says He is, and will do what He says He will do.

John 10:10 (NKJV) 10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Apply the Word in Your Life – Mixed with Faith

THE WORD MIXED WITH FAITH MEANS WE STAND UP, STEP OUT, AND START MOVING. The word is given and you put it into operation:

- I believe you will never leave me nor forsake me (Hebrews 13:5), So I am going to step out into the ministry and serve you no matter how scary it may seem.
- I believe in train up a child in the way he shall go and when he is old he shall return (Proverbs 22:6), So today I am going to pray for my child believing you will do I work, I praise you in advance for what you will do in his life.
- I believe God will supply all my needs (Philippians 4:19), So I will continue to give to the works of saints trusting you will supply my needs

- I believe all things work together for good (Romans 8:28), So I am going to love my spouse and fight for my marriage and take the past pains and use them to strengthen our marriage.
- I believe God will be with me even to the ends of the world (Acts 1:8), So I am going to go on living and praising and witnessing of You to all that will listen, to the ends of the earth.

Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

(Hebrews 4:14 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

(Hebrews 4:15 NKJV) For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

(Hebrews 4:16 NKJV) Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Jesus gives us rest through the ministry of prayer. So here we see two places of power, through His Word, and through prayer. He is making intercession for us. So his ruling over us is based on intercession for us. He is not lording over us, but praying for us, caring for us.

In fact, in chapter 7, it says “He lives” to make intercession for us; and based on everything we have just read, it is easy for me to say and declare, that His whole purpose and desire (even though He is God), is to live for me and see me through this world and into His arms. That is amazing love!

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

(Romans 8:34 NKJV) Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Conclusion

Chapter 4 – Christ and His Rest: The Works are Complete

- Jesus – Our Promise of Rest (4:1-2)
- Jesus – A Greater Rest than the Sabbath (4:3-6)
- Jesus - A Greater Rest than the Promised Land (4:7-8)
- Jesus – Gives Us Rest from Our Works (4:9-10)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Word (4:11-13)
- Jesus – Rest is Given through His Intercession (4:14-16)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.