

# For the Rest of Your Life: A Working Faith

Faith is the only activity as we enter into God's rest. Obedience is the key that unlocks His promises.

## No Rest for Rebels

Hebrews 3:7-19

New Living Translation

7 That is why the Holy Spirit says,

“Today when you hear his voice,

8 don't harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled,

when they tested me in the wilderness.

9 There your ancestors tested and tried my patience,

even though they saw my miracles for forty years.

10 So I was angry with them, and I said,

‘Their hearts always turn away from me.

They refuse to do what I tell them.’

11 So in my anger I took an oath:

‘They will never enter my place of rest.’”[a]

12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters.[b] Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. 13 You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. 14 For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. 15 Remember what it says:

“Today when you hear his voice,

don't harden your hearts

as Israel did when they rebelled.”[c]

16 And who was it who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Wasn't it the people Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose corpses lay in the wilderness? 18 And to whom was God speaking when he took an oath that they would never enter his rest? Wasn't it the people who disobeyed him? 19 So we see that because of their unbelief they were not able to enter his rest.

## Rest for the Faith-filled & Obedient

Hebrews 4

New Living Translation

4 God's promise of entering his rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that some of you might fail to experience it.

- ***We must be terrified at the thought of not entering into God's promised rest.***

2 For this good news—that God has prepared this rest—has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because they didn't share the faith of those who listened to God.[a] 3 For only we who believe can enter his rest. As for the others, God said,

"In my anger I took an oath:

'They will never enter my place of rest,'"[b]

even though this rest has been ready since he made the world. 4 We know it is ready because of the place in the Scriptures where it mentions the seventh day: "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." [c] 5 But in the other passage God said, "They will never enter my place of rest." [d]

6 So God's rest is there for people to enter, but those who first heard this good news failed to enter because they disobeyed God.

- ***What kept the children of Israel from entering His rest? Unbelief, a disregard for His word. To say " God doesn't mean what He says, or is not faithful to do what He said.***
- ***What happened to the disobedient generation? They died in the wilderness, died in their season of testing because they decided to test God.***

7 So God set another time for entering his rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David much later in the words already quoted:

"Today when you hear his voice,  
don't harden your hearts." [e]

8 Now if Joshua had succeeded in giving them this rest, God would not have spoken about another day of rest still to come. 9 So there is a special rest [f] still waiting for the people of God. 10 For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world.

- ***My preaching and teaching is rest, when the Holy Spirit is moving and I'm still.***

- **Detective testimony of rest.**
- **Rest is in when we bring our will to a stand still, so God can move.**

11 So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.

- **Where is there unrest in your life? Where is there striving? Where is your work producing nothing?**
- **Wherever there is disobedience in your life, there you will find where you're falling.**
- **How do we bring all that is working against us to rest? Do what His word says!**

12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.

Christ Is Our High Priest

14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

## **Advanced Rest**

Hebrews 6:1-11

New Living Translation

6 So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don't need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds[a] and placing our faith in God. 2 You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. 3 And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

- **We move forward only as far as our understanding and training is spiritual things.**
- **Where there is no hunger, there is no energy, and no power to advance.**

4 For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, 5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— 6 and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

7 When the ground soaks up the falling rain and bears a good crop for the farmer, it has God's blessing. 8 But if a field bears thorns and thistles, it is useless. The farmer will soon condemn that field and burn it.

9 Dear friends, even though we are talking this way, we really don't believe it applies to you. We are confident that you are meant for better things, things that come with salvation. 10 For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers,[b] as you still do. 11 Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true.

## Remaining in Rest

Hebrews 10:19-39

New Living Translation

A Call to Persevere

19 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. 20 By his death,[b] Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place. 21 And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's house, 22 let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. 24 Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works.

- ***We must work the works of the one who sent us.***
- ***We are only at rest when we're in obedience, everything else is being under the control of the carnal nature.***
- ***We must do what we saw Him do, as He did what He saw His Father do.***

A walk, a talk, a run:

John 4:5-7

New Living Translation

5 Eventually he came to the Samaritan village of Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk (35 miles), sat wearily beside the well about noontime. 7 Soon a Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Please give me a drink."

John 4:28-30

New Living Translation

28 The woman left her water jar beside the well and ran back to the village, telling everyone, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” 30 So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

- ***The reason we cannot fail to assemble is the body works better together.***
- ***Can't scratch my head with my nose.***

1 Corinthians 12:27-28

New Living Translation

27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 28 Here are some of the parts God has appointed for the church:

first are apostles,  
second are prophets,  
third are teachers,  
then those who do miracles,  
those who have the gift of healing,  
those who can help others,  
those who have the gift of leadership,  
those who speak in unknown languages.

26 Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins. 27 There is only the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. 28 For anyone who refused to obey the law of Moses was put to death without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. 29 Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us. 30 For we know the one who said,

“I will take revenge.

I will pay them back.”[c]

He also said,

“The Lord will judge his own people.”[d]

31 It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

32 Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ.[e] Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering. 33 Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things. 34 You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.

35 So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! 36 Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.

37 “For in just a little while,  
the Coming One will come and not delay.

38 And my righteous ones will live by faith.[f]

But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away.”[g]

39 But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved.