

Enter into God's Rest A Bible Teaching by Jack Hartman

September, 2016

This is the first time Jack has taught short messages in many years. Those who were in his Tuesday night Bible studies throughout the 1980's will testify to the life-changing results of those Bible studies still taking place today. If you attended Jack's Bible studies at Faith Christian Center in Bedford, NH, please send me a comment to bless those who were not there☺ That Jack is *teaching* again is monumental. You won't want to miss a single teaching. The teachings from Jack and Judy started in February 2016. You can see all of them on our website listed under each month's Lamplight Ministries, Inc. newsletter.

In this teaching we will study what the Bible teaches about the rest of God. You will see that God definitely has provided rest for each of His children. Many of God's children do not enter His rest because they do not know what the Bible teaches about entering into God's rest. (All of the following Scripture references are from *The Amplified Bible*.)

GOD HAS PROVIDED GLORIOUS ETERNAL REST IN HEAVEN FOR EVERY ONE OF HIS CHILDREN. "...Blessed (happy, to be envied) are the dead from now on who die in the Lord! Yes, blessed (happy, to be envied indeed), says the Spirit, [in] that they may rest from their labors..." (Revelation 14:13)

Our July teaching that was titled "Are You Absolutely Certain That You Will Rest Eternally in Heaven?" explains that every person who has received Jesus Christ as his or her Savior will live throughout eternity in heaven. If Jesus Christ is your Savior, you can be assured that you *will* be able to *rest eternally* in heaven from your labor on earth. Heavenly rest is magnificent, but you do *not* have to wait until you arrive in heaven to enter into God's rest.

ALL OF GOD'S PROMISES PERTAINING TO HIS SUPERNATURAL REST APPLY TO YOU THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE ON EARTH. Have deep, strong, and unwavering faith that God has provided you with His supernatural rest. " while the promise of entering His rest still holds and is

offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it], lest any of you should think he has come too late and has come short of [reaching] it. For indeed we have had the glad tidings [Gospel of God] proclaimed to us just as truly as they [the Israelites of old did when the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them]; but the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith (with the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness) by those who heard it; neither were they united in faith with the ones [Joshua and Caleb] who heard (did believe).” (Hebrews 4:1-2)

This long passage of Scripture explains that the same supernatural rest of God that was available to the Israelites many years ago is available to *you* today. You can only enter into God’s rest to the degree that you *know* what His Word says about entering into His rest and to the degree that you *trust* God completely whenever you face a difficult problem. The amplification in verse 2 says that people do not enter into God’s rest because they do not have “faith (the leaning of the entire personality on God with absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness.)”

YOUR FAITH IN GOD DETERMINES WHETHER YOU WILL ENTER INTO THE SUPERNATURAL REST HE HAS PROVIDED FOR YOU.

“...we who have believed (adhered to and trusted in and relied on God) do enter that rest, in accordance with His declaration that those [who did not believe] should not enter when He said, As I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter My rest...” (Hebrews 4:3)

Christians who do not enter into God’s rest do not believe deep down in their hearts that God will carry their heavy burdens. The first amplification in this verse uses the words “adhered to and trusted in and relied on God.” You will enter into God’s rest to the degree that you know and believe these promises pertaining to God’s rest. You will enter into God’s rest to the degree that you have absolute faith that God *always* does what He promises to do, (see Nu 23:19 and I Co 1:9).

ENTER INTO GOD’S REST DURING YOUR LIFE ON EARTH BY TRUSTING GOD COMPLETELY TO PROVIDE ALL OF THE SECURITY YOU WILL EVER NEED. “God gives them security, and they rest on it ...” (Job 24:23)

Do not place all of your trust in any worldly source of security. Trust your Father completely to give you His supernatural security throughout your life on earth.

GOD HAS GIVEN YOU REST FROM SORROW, PAIN, AND TROUBLE. “...the Lord has given you rest from your sorrow and pain and from your trouble and unrest...” (Isaiah 14:3)

Your Father wants you to be absolutely certain that He *has* given you rest from sorrow and pain. If you face any situation that could cause sorrow, bodily pain or any other kind of trouble, refuse to focus on whatever problem you face. Meditate often on this verse of Scripture and the other passages of Scripture in this month’s teaching.

OBEY GOD’S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR ENTERING INTO HIS REST. The Israelites were told exactly what to do to enter into God’s rest, but they did not obey. “...This is the true rest [the way to true comfort and happiness] that you shall give to the weary, and, This is the [true] refreshing--yet they would not listen [to His teaching].” (Isaiah 28:12)

God promised the Israelites “comfort and happiness” whenever they were weary. They did not listen to Him. Carefully study the Scripture references in the remainder of this month’s teaching to learn exactly what God instructs *you* to do to enter into His rest during your life on earth.

TRUST THE LORD TO FIGHT DIFFICULT BATTLES FOR YOU WHILE YOU REST WITH ABSOLUTE FAITH IN HIM. “The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace and remain at rest.” (Exodus 14:14)

These words that Moses spoke to the Israelites when the Egyptians were pursuing them and there seemed to be no way out apply to you today. God does not want you to attempt to fight difficult battles that you cannot win with your limited human abilities. Trust God completely to “fight for you.” Rest in Him.

JESUS CHRIST DOES NOT WANT YOU TO STRUGGLE AND STRAIN ATTEMPTING TO CARRY BURDENS THAT ARE TOO HEAVY FOR YOU TO CARRY. Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-

laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.]” (Matthew 11:28)

The word “all” near the beginning of this verse is very important. This promise applies to *every* Christian who is struggling with a heavy burden. Jesus Christ has provided supernatural rest for every Christian. Will you enter into the rest that Jesus Christ has provided for you or will you struggle and strain trying to solve difficult problems with your limited human abilities?

When Jesus said that He will “cause you to rest,” He meant exactly what He said. The amplification in this verse says that Jesus “will ease and relieve and refresh your soul.” Trust Jesus Christ completely to do what you cannot do. Enter into the supernatural rest He has provided for you.

YOU CAN ONLY ENTER INTO GOD’S REST TO THE DEGREE THAT YOU DO NOT STRUGGLE AND STRAIN ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS WITH YOUR LIMITED HUMAN ABILITIES.

“...he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labors...” (Hebrews 4:10)

One of the best ways to understand the principle of entering into God’s rest is to visualize a group of people who are being taught how to swim. Some students fight the water. They thrash and splash. They sink quickly because they will not let go, trusting completely in the water to hold them up. Your Father wants you to learn to trust Him just as experienced swimmers trust the water to hold them up.

Hebrews 4:10 explains that you can only enter into God’s rest if you “cease from the weariness and pain of human labors.” God does not require you to solve every problem with your limited human abilities. Rest in God. Trust Him completely to solve problems that you cannot solve. “Cease to trust in [weak, frail, and dying] man, whose breath is in his nostrils [for so short a time]...” (Isaiah 2:22)

DO EXACTLY WHAT GOD HAS INSTRUCTED YOU TO DO TO ENTER INTO HIS REST. “Let us therefore be zealous and exert ourselves and strive diligently to enter that rest [of God, to know and experience it for ourselves].” (Hebrews 4:11)

You enter into God's rest to the degree that you are "zealous and exert yourself and strive diligently." The only way that you can enter into God's rest is to pay the price of studying the specific promises He has given to you concerning His rest. Have absolute faith that God *has* provided supernatural rest for you. Trust Him completely. Rest in Him.

We have studied 11 different passages of Scripture in this teaching. There is *no question* that God has provided supernatural rest for every one of His children. Continually strengthen your faith in God. Meditate often on these magnificent promises from God pertaining to the supernatural rest that He has provided for *you*.