

JACK HARTMAN'S BLOG (AGE 86)

Post #4: Enter Into God's Rest

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE BIBLE INSTRUCTS YOU TO DO TO ENTER GOD'S REST? ARE YOU RESTING IN GOD WHENEVER YOU FACE ADVERSITY?

This teaching contains an explanation of promises from God that He will help you to rest in Him whenever you face a difficult problem. I hope that the Scripture references we will study here will help you as they have helped me for many years. All Scripture references in this teaching are from *The Amplified Bible*.

Jesus Christ wants you to rest in Him instead of struggling and straining 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" at the beginning of this verse is very important. This promise applies to every Christian who is attempting to carry heavy burdens with his or her limited human abilities. Jesus Christ has provided supernatural rest for every Christian. Will you enter into the rest that He has provided or will you struggle and strain attempting to solve difficult problems with your human abilities?

The following verse of Scripture has helped me *many* times when I faced difficult problems. "...he who has once entered [God's] rest also has ceased from [the weariness and pain] of human labors..." (Hebrews 4:10)

I cannot tell you how many times the words "the weariness and pain of human labors" in the amplification at the end of this verse have helped me. Many times I have told myself to stop struggling and straining. I have rested in God.

Do not make the same mistake that the Israelites made when they went through the wilderness into the Promised Land. "To these [complaining Jews the Lord] had said, 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)

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 of these people fight the water. They thrash and splash. They sink quickly because they do not trust the water to hold them up. Your Father wants you to trust Him just as experienced swimmers trust the water to hold them up.

Your faith in God determines whether you will enter into the supernatural rest that 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..." (Hebrews 4:3)

Christians who do not enter into God's rest do not have deep, strong and unwavering faith 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 the scriptural promises and instructions in this teaching.

If these teachings have helped you, please tell others about them. I want to serve God by helping as many people as I can.