

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

PART 14 - ENTERING INTO HIS REST

This is the last part of this series called 'Faith - The Currency of the Kingdom', and as it's the last part we are going to finish with the verses from Hebrews 4:1-3.

Hebrews 4:1-3 Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Last week we looked at Hebrews 3:19, where it says that the Israelites as a people were unable to enter the promised land because of their unbelief. They did not unite what they heard about the promised land from Caleb and Joshua, with a faith that carried a conviction and an assurance, so they failed to enter His rest.

I personally believe unbelief is the second greatest sin outside of blaspheming the Holy Spirit, because anything not done by faith is a sin. All sin can be forgiven apart from this blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, so although we may be in unbelief, there is hope, in Him, for us. What we are going to unpack in verses 1-3 from chapter 4 will encourage us while also confronting us, in a really good way, to see if we have entered into the promise of Sabbath Rest, a promise which all believers are to have entered into. The promised land in their context is a type of rest, which we get to enter into, through our fellowship with Christ.

Let's unpack each of these 3 verses.

Vs 1. Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.

We are to carry a holy fear if we have in fact not yet entered into this Sabbath Rest. Is this something which is stirring within you right now? Have we entered into this Sabbath Rest and as verse 10 says, rested from our works? One of the key evidences of whether you have entered into His rest is in the reality of no longer trying to be a Christian, but just living from being Christ like.

This fear isn't a fear that paralyzes you but one that propels you into and towards the One who is Sabbath Rest and the One who gives us this rest, which defines everything about the way we live as His followers. As it says we are not to come short of it, like the Israelites did through unbelief, but we are to enter into this rest through faith.

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

Vs 2. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.

The Israelites had the good news preached to them, but the word they heard didn't profit them, due to their lack of faith. If we don't have the kind of faith we have been looking at in this resource, then when we too hear the Word of God declared, it will profit us nothing and we, like them, will fail to enter into the eternal life that God has for us to receive now.

The Word of God is to profit us immensely, as it is the Word of God, the seed of God that brings us into the life of God in us. How are we profiting from hearing the Word of God through this spiritual kind of faith we have?

Vs 3. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said, "As I swore in My wrath, they shall not enter My rest," although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

So we who have believed have entered that rest. What does it mean to believe? Because it is through this belief, that we HAVE entered into the rest. To believe isn't to just have a mental or intellectual agreement with what God says through our human learning. To believe is to have a living conviction of what the Word of God says through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, writing the Word on our hearts and minds. There is no other way to believe than this, and it is from this kind of "believe", which is of the same kind as faith, that we enter into His rest and rest from our works, our trying to bring ourselves into life.

We can see from verse 3 that a certain number of Israelite people were never going to enter into this rest because His works were finished from the foundation of the earth, but we have been chosen to enter in, so have we?

As a final part of looking at this rest, verses 11 and 12 of chapter 4 are incredibly important for us to partake of.

Hebrews 4:11-12 Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Let's look at verse 11. We are to be diligent to enter into this rest, so that we don't fall like the Israelites did and miss out on what we could have experienced even though we are justified. This is a kingdom reality not a repentance of iniquity and sin issue. We don't want to be following the same example of disobedience by not entering into His rest and continuing to do our own thing.

FAITH

THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM

We can see from verse 12 that it's the Word of God that brings us into this Sabbath Rest, hence the need to be able to hear the Word of Christ which births faith, a faith that knows what is in the unseen seen kingdom, which is the faith we live from.

The Word of God is living and active and when declared it judges the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The Word of God is powerful, dynamic, sharp, piercing. It cuts deep and divides spirit and flesh for the purpose of life.

It exposes the unbelief that's sitting in our hearts for the purpose of repentance which is what the Israelites failed to do, hence they never entered into the promised land, and we too can repeat this behaviour if we too reject, deny, deflect, justify away the Word of God as something else, because we fail to recognise it when declared.

I want to finish this series with this one verse from Romans 10:17, as this one verse, testifies of how this spiritual kind of faith is birthed, formed and established within us.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it possible to be justified and still not living His Rest?
2. How is the Word to profit us?
3. Why didn't the Word of God profit them?
4. Why must we be diligent to enter His rest if this promise still remains unfulfilled?
5. How will entering into His rest transform who we are and the way we live?