

Hebrews 4 – “God Wants To Give Us REST”

December 17, 2023 Pastor Don Talley

(1) Faith is the **attitude** of trusting God with **obedience**. The right response to what God has done and to what God has made known.

(2) God wants to **ble**ss**** us with the **joy** and delight of His presence; **peace** and freedom from fear and anxiety; and **victory** over the struggles, habits, and problems that plague and trouble us every day!

(3) King David made it clear:
It’s never **too late** to respond to God’s words—to God’s promises—just like...
“Tomorrow never comes!”
“**Today** is never too late!”

(4) Nobody ever grew or **matured** in the Christian life by being careless or **lazy**.

(5) The Word of God is a supernatural book! It is the **word** of God ... and it also contains the **words** of God!

(6) Our **humility** recognizes who we are: broken and needy people; but our **boldness** affirms God’s desire to receive us with open arms of love and acceptance...

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(1) Faith is the _____ of trusting God with _____. The right response to what God has done and to what God has made known.

(Phil. 2:12-13; Ex. 14:16, 17:6, 16:12; Heb. 11:6)

(2) God wants to **ble**ss**** us with the _____ and delight of His presence; _____ and freedom from fear and anxiety; and _____ over the struggles, habits, and problems that plague and trouble us every day!

(Num. 21:4-9; John 3:14; Heb. 4:1)

(3) King David made it clear:
It’s never _____ to respond to God’s words—to God’s promises—just like... “Tomorrow never comes!”
“_____ is never too late!”

(Gen. 1:31; John 5:17; Phil. 2:13, 3:6; Rom.8:28)

(4) Nobody ever grew or _____ in the Christian life by being careless or _____.

(Matt. 11:28, 29-30; 2 Cor. 5:17; Heb. 2:1)

(5) The Word of God is a supernatural book! It is the _____ of God ... and it also contains the _____ of God!

(6) Our _____ recognizes who we are: broken and needy people; but our _____ affirms God’s desire to receive us with open arms of love and acceptance...

(Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Tim. 2:5)

Food for Thought for the week of December 17, 2023

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

Life Groups are on break! Feel free to use the following study questions with your personal devotions! Life Groups signups begin December 31!

1) What stands out to you from the following passage?
Genesis 2:1-3 - "[1] Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. [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. [3] Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

Since God is all-powerful... why do you think God rested on the seventh day? What was His purpose in resting?

2) This week we read how Israel's *disobedience* to enter into the Promised Land was connected to their *unbelief*. In other words, unbelief is expressed through disobedience. Faith is expressed through obedience. Give an example of how you might express your faith through obeying God.

3) What do you think the following passage means?
James 1:22-25 - "[22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; [24] for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. [25] But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and

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continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

How do you think this passage connects with the idea in Hebrews 4 (not failing to enter in where God is leading)?

4) Does the following passage encourage you or discourage you? Why?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - "[9] *The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? [10] I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.*"

5) What stands out to you from the following passage?

Isaiah 55:6-7 - "[6] *Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. [7] Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.*"

The Bible teaches us that God is merciful and calls people to receive His mercy. But, we also learn that God will judge those who rejected (or neglected) Him. Why do you think it is important that God is both merciful AND just?

Imagine if God was all mercy and no justice, or all justice and no mercy. What would you miss if God fit one of these two categories?

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