

## THE FAITH-REST LIFE IN THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE

(Hebrews 4)

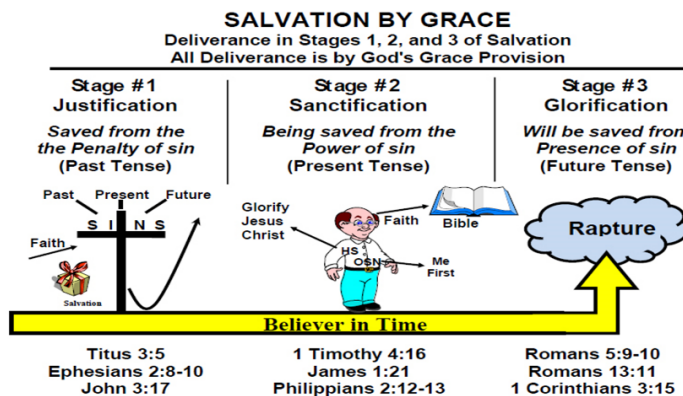
Take 2 minutes and answer the following questions:

- 1) T or F Because every believer is accepted in Christ, all that they now does is met with approval by God.
- 2) T or F The confession of daily sins (1 John 1:9) is the key to fellowship with God.
- 3) T or F The Christian life involves doing your best for Jesus and trusting God to do the rest.
- 4) T or F The goal of the Christian life is to learn sound doctrine.
- 5) T or F While justification is by grace through faith alone in Christ alone, sanctification is by faith plus works.
- 6) T or F Obedience is the key to true spirituality.
- 7) T or F While every believer has peace with God, not all believers enjoy daily the peace of God.
- 8) T or F You live the Christian life in the very same way that you were initially saved.
- 9) T or F The plan of God for the believer involves salvation in 3 phases, stages, or tenses.
- 10) T or F God helps those who help themselves.

- Do we understand the 2 different “rests” that God is offering to you by His grace? (Matt. 11:28-30)

#1) The rest of \_\_\_\_\_ is through one decision to place your \_\_\_\_\_ alone apart from religious works and traditions. This changes your ETERNAL DESTINY and RELATIONSHIP with God forever. This results in possessing PEACE \_\_\_\_\_ God. (Romans 5:1; 3:23-25; Acts 16:31; Gal. 2:21)

#2) The rest of the \_\_\_\_\_ life is through repeated decisions to \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ to Him moment by moment in your daily decisions and trials of life. This transforms you INTERNALLY and affects your FELLOWSHIP with God in time. This results in enjoying the PEACE \_\_\_ God. (Rom.15:13; Phil.4:6-7)



**A. The CONTEXT of HEBREWS 4.**

1. The *writer* of Hebrews is UNKNOWN, though ultimately it was the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The *recipients* of Hebrews were \_\_\_\_\_, not the \_\_\_\_\_. (3:1; 10:32-36)
3. The *date* of Hebrews is approximately AD \_\_, while the TEMPLE, and defunct PRIESTHOOD and SACRIFICES were still in existence.
4. The *theme* of Hebrews is THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_. (1:1-3)
5. The *problem* being addressed in Hebrews is centered on significant \_\_\_\_\_ directed to these believers by the Jewish community and the imminent danger of their \_\_\_\_\_ to RABBINICAL JUDAISM. (Hebrews 10:32-39; 13:7-14)
6. The *purpose* of Hebrews is to demonstrate the SUPREMACY OF CHRIST so as to challenge believers to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in faithfulness to the Lord and Savior in the face of tremendous pressure to compromise resulting in conditional blessings in time and reward later.
7. The *contrast* that is emphasized is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Exodus generation of believers (Heb. 3) to walk by faith and enter into God's rest (Hebrews 3) and the offer of \_\_\_\_\_ to these Hebrew Christians years later (Hebrews 4). Were the Exodus generation believers? (Ex. 14:30-31)

**B. The CONTENT of HEBREWS 4.**

1. The *subject* of this third warning revolves around the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ which is found \_\_\_\_\_ in Hebrews 3 & 4.
2. The *meaning* of "rest" involves...CESSATION OF WORK OR LABOR; FREEDOM FROM WORRIES OR ANXIETIES; SENSE OF CONFIDENCE, PEACE, AND INNER STABILITY INVOLVING DEPENDENCE UPON SOMEONE OR SOMETHING.

What is this 'rest' referring to in this context?

- 1) It is not \_\_\_\_\_. {Due to context; they were already believers; also 1 John 5:13; and 2 Tim. 2:13}
- 2) It is not \_\_\_\_\_. {Due to context, and a correct understanding of Canaan land.}
- 3) It is not the \_\_\_\_\_. {Due to context & that entrance is being offered now, not later.}
- 4) It is the daily \_\_\_\_\_ in which the believer walks by faith in dependence upon God and enjoys inner peace, joy, stability, etc. as the Lord fights His battles and carries His burdens. This is supported by the fact that it is being presently offered to them to be entered today, without waiting for some future time & was available to the Exodus generation, thus nullifying Heaven & the Millennium.

3. The *provider* of this "rest" is \_\_\_\_\_. (4:1b, 10)

Years ago, Miles Stanford insightfully penned, "Our Father knows that we are weakness incarnate; that we can do nothing. The trouble is that we do not know it. He must bring us all to the place where we see that we are utterly weak and helpless." Is not this what Paul declared? (2 Cor. 3:5-6, 12:9-10)

- Colossians 2:6-7

4. The *warning* is for us to \_\_\_\_ a failure to COME SHORT of ENTERING into God's rest. (4:1c)
5. The *ongoing promise and possibility* of entering God's rest \_\_\_\_\_ for you today. (4:1a)
6. The *good news of God's rest* is a message God had and still wants \_\_\_\_\_ to believers in the PRESENT just as in the PAST. (4:2a)
7. The *means of entering God's rest* involves more than \_\_\_\_\_ God's Word [as important as that is], but also \_\_\_\_\_ God's PROMISES and PRINCIPLES. (4:2b; 5:12-14)
  - What is the only response consistent with God's grace?
  - What are the opposites of faith-resting in the Lord?
  - Why don't many believers enter or enjoy God's rest today?
8. The faith-rest life is a \_\_\_\_\_ principle over the ages as illustrated in CREATION and CANAAN. (4:3-5) What are some examples of this?
9. The *present opportunity* to enter God's rest still \_\_\_\_\_ available to \_\_\_\_ believers \_\_\_\_\_, though it is only entered by \_\_\_\_\_. (4:6-9)
  - What word is found 5x in this passage?
  - What is the difference between "little faith" and "great faith"?
10. The *necessities* for entering God's rest include God's \_\_\_\_\_ provisions. (4:10) and your \_\_\_\_\_ in God's person, principles and promises, as it involves a willingness for you to CEASE FROM YOUR OWN WORKS as God did from His. (4:10)

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What *elements* does faith-resting in Christ involve in this present dispensation of grace?

- 1) It involves resting by faith regarding Jesus Christ's past work via the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_ you in providing victory over the sin nature through your identification in Christ. (Romans 6:1-14)
- 2) It involves resting by faith regarding Jesus Christ's present work via the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_ you in providing daily enablement and spiritual transformation. (Rom.7:15-8:1-7; Gal.5:16; 2 Cor. 3:17-18)
- 3) It involves resting by faith regarding Jesus Christ's present work \_\_\_\_ you in carrying your burdens, fighting your battles, and directing your paths. (1 Peter 5:7; Prov.3:5-6)

- 4) It involves resting by faith regarding Jesus Christ's present work \_\_\_\_\_ you in service to the Lord and others. (Col.1:27-29)
- 5) It involves a "rightly dividing the word of truth" with a \_\_\_\_\_ orientation as a \_\_\_\_\_ of Heaven (Phil. 3:20) and member of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 2 &3) who has been blessed with ALL spiritual blessings in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:10) with a HEAVENLY destiny and home (John 14:1-3) and heavenly INHERITANCE (1 Peter 1:3-5) so that we see ourselves as PILGRIMS on the Earth (1 Peter 2:11) and AMBASSADORS for Christ (2 Cor. 5:18-21).

C.I. Scofield wrote: It may safely be said that the Judaizing of the church has done more to hinder her progress, pervert her mission, and destroy her spiritually than all other causes combined. Instead of pursuing her appointed path of separation from the world and following the Lord in her heavenly calling, she has used Jewish Scriptures to justify herself in lowering her purpose to the civilization of the world, the acquisition of wealth, the use of an imposing ritual, the erection of magnificent churches, the invocation of God's blessing upon the conflicts of armies, and the division of an equal brotherhood into "clergy" and "laity." (Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth)

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**11. The *factors* for entering God's rest include:**

- a. God's GRACE provisions. (4:10)
- b. Your FAITH IN God's principles and promises. (4:2)
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ to enter God's rest. (4:11)
- d. the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Word. (4:12)
- e. a reminder of your \_\_\_\_\_ to God. (4:13)

\* What about 1 John 1:9 and the confession of sin?

**12. The *closing exhortations* regarding the faith-rest life amidst the pressure & persecution these believers were facing (Heb. 4:14-16): *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, \_\_\_\_\_ . 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

**16 Let us therefore \_\_\_\_\_, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**