

“THE SEARCH TO FIND REST”

Hebrews 4:1-8

Message 1596

One of the great church fathers in Africa years ago prayed like this: “Thou hast made us for thyself, and our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee.” Bishop Augustine learned a great truth. I’d like to convey that truth to you.

So many people are restless. Are you one of those that is restless, without peace? Some months ago we received a letter from a 13-year-old boy who said, “I am lost, I am lost like a dog trying to find his master’s house. Can you help me?” Yes, of course, we can help this young lad. Just like we can help you if you are restless, if you feel like you are lost, like a dog trying to find his master’s house. This message is for you, **THE SEARCH TO FIND REST.**

Do you know what rest is? I wish to help you understand how to find rest if you are restless, distressed, or discouraged. Go with me to Hebrews 4:1-8 for help in finding rest.

- 1. Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.*
- 2. For unto us was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*
- 3. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*
- 4. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.*
- 5. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.*
- 6. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:*
- 7. Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, Today, after so long a time; as it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*
- 8. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.*

Let me direct your mind to several encouraging **OBSERVATIONS** to help you in your search for rest.

THERE IS THE PROMISE OF REST. That promise was made by the Lord. We have it from the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” God made the promise. He made the promise also to the children of Israel many years ago when He said that He would take them into the promised land and there they would have rest.

That promise of rest was made by the Lord, but that promise must be mixed with faith, as it is stated here. It did not profit them because they did not mix it with faith. There’s no reality without faith, my friend. Reality of rest comes through faith, mixing the promise with faith.

Then I learned that promise is already finished, already finished from the foundation of the world. The rest, the promise of rest is not in process, it is finished, my dear friend. We simply enter into that rest. The Lord has made the promise of rest and all we do is mix that promise with faith and we enter into rest.

THERE IS THE PRINCIPLE FOR REST. God gave the principle. At the time when He created the world, He rested after six days of creation. The Bible tells us that He rested on the seventh day and hallowed, or sanctified it. There is the principle of rest, and God has laid down that principle in history.

Later, He affirmed it to Moses when He gave him the law. One of the ten commandments is, “Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy.” There is the principle of rest, and God means that we shall observe that principle by His example. God rested the seventh day from all His works.

It remains, therefore, that we are to employ that principle of rest. Yes, praise the Lord, there is this principle of rest which God demonstrated in the creation when He rested on the seventh day. He wrote it into the history of mankind.

Every nation in the world has some principle by which it operates. Every people have some principle by which they operate. Here is the principle of rest that God has demonstrated. He means, therefore, that we as well should find rest. So there is that principle of rest.

THERE IS THE PARTICULAR KIND OF REST. When God created the world and rested on the seventh day, we are told that He rested from all His works, from all His labor. There is, however, a particular kind of rest shown by Canaan, by the fact that the children of Israel were to be entering into the land of rest. Joshua took them into the promised land, and there the Lord said they would have rest from their wanderings, and they would have rest from their enemies, when they trusted in Him. The wanderings were to cease, once they came into the land of Canaan. A particular kind of rest is exemplified by this plan of God for the people of Israel.

But, this Scripture says there is another kind of rest. For if Joshua had given them their full rest, then he would not afterward have spoken of another day. But there is another kind of rest: there is another day. It is that particular kind of rest that I’m talking to you about—the search to find rest: rest of spirit, rest of soul, and rest of heart.

Now, those who were not permitted to go in to the land of Canaan for rest were those who failed in faith. Because they did not believe, they could not enter; they were denied entrance. They did not go in because of unbelief. But we can enter into the rest, the spiritual rest, by faith, by belief—that particular kind of rest that brings your troubled heart to peace and rest.

Are you restless? Are you troubled? Are you discouraged? There is a particular kind of rest into which you can enter when you mix it with faith. When you do not harden your heart, when you exercise faith, you can come into this glorious rest, this spiritual rest.

Yes, praise the Lord, there is that particular kind of rest that can give you rest in your heart, in your spirit. You can have that rest of spirit when there doesn’t seem to be any reason from the outward circumstances that you should have rest. Many people have experienced that kind of rest, because they have mixed the promise with faith—the promise of God, the promise of Jesus, “Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”

Our text says there is a particular kind of rest that you can enter into, that you can enjoy. Your search to find rest ends when you take God's way, my friend. There is the promise of rest, there is the principle of rest, there is a particular kind of rest that you can have.

I am glad to tell you that this can give you hope for every day. You can end your search. Will you come to this kind of rest? This particular kind of rest is the kind that you mix with faith, when you listen to the words of Jesus, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."