

The Spiritual Christian, part 10
The rest by faith from God

I. A New Testament promise contrasted to an Old Testament promise.

1. Dispensational use of the Old Testament (1 Cor. 10:11 cf. 2 Tim. 2:15).
2. The Nation Israel failed and never fully inherited the Promised Land and its rest (Duet. 7:6, 11-13).
 - 1) The Land was a conditional promise.
 - 2) David summarizes the first generation (Ps. 95:8-11).
 - 3) From Joshua to David the Land was never completely secured (Acts 7:45).
3. In Hebrews chapter three, Paul, born along by the Holy Spirit, reminds the reader of the failure of the first generation that escaped from Egypt (Heb. 3:16-19).

II. “Therefore”, based on this history, “Let us fear” (Heb. 4:1-11).

1. “Us, you, we” contrasted to “they, them.”
2. Fear being rebellious, disobedient, and sinning.
3. Causing ourselves to miss His rest, like they did (v. 2).
4. But, in the Old Testament, they heard a gospel regarding the Promised Land:
 - 1) And did not profit.
 - 2) Because they did not combine faith with the promise.
5. New Testament believers enter into rest (v. 3).
 - 1) If they combine faith with God’s promises.
 - 2) Many promises that are better than theirs (Heb. 8:6).
 - 3) For example: 1 Cor. 10:13—temptation; Gal. 6:16—the flesh; 1 Pet. 5:8-9—Satan; Tit. 2:2—the world system.
 - 4) God has made ample provisions for the Christian to overcome the spiritual enemies and serve God.
6. God ceased His activity on the seventh day (v. 3).
 - 1) Not because He was exhausted.
 - 2) It was because He had done everything that He had planned to do—complete.

7. Old Testament saints will enter into a rest, however, not like the first generation (vv. 5-6).
8. The people of God are promised rest.
 - 1) Israel (Deut. 7).
 - 2) The Church of God (Acts 15:14).

III. God's rest (Heb. 4:10).

1. The Christian ceases his works regarding the enemies, because all that he can do has been done.
2. As God ceased His very own work on the seventh day.

IV. Christians are to mentally hasten to enter into God's rest (Heb. 4:11).

1. By faith, in contrast to the Nation Israel.
2. By fearing, not in unbelief, not being disobedient.