

Hymns: RHC 259 Lamp of our Feet, 216 Jesus Shall Reign, 360 My God, Is Any Hour So Sweet, 387 I Need Thee Every Hour

Hebrews 4:11-16

Hebrews 4:11-16 (KJV) Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. 12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. 13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things *are* naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Let Faith Prevail

OUTLINE

(1) Faith's Fruit – Rest (v11)

(2) Faith's Food – The Word of God (v12-13)

(3) Faith's Forerunner – Jesus Christ Our Example (v14-15)

(4) Faith's Fortress – The Throne of Grace (v16)

INTRODUCTION

Let faith prevail. Rather let God prevail. Let Him have the supremacy in our lives. Let Him have the glory. Let Him lead. He knows what He is doing. Let us not side-stepped Him. Let us be thankful that He is still on the throne. Let us obey and follow Him. It may be a cross that we have to bear. It may be a wilderness that we have to tread. It will be a pathway of rest, a light yoke, as Jesus puts it. Would you be willing to follow Him? Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6), the only way, the only truth and the sole life-giver!

The writer of Hebrews exhorts the Jewish believers in Christ to remain steadfast following the Lord amidst the hardship. He calls the believers, holy brethren (Hebrews 3:1), made holy by One Who won righteousness on their behalf. He says in Hebrews 2:1 after given the credentials of Jesus Christ that He is the very God, *“therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”* Christian, lose not your steadfastness in Christ. Let not heavenly manna become a dread as you think of the leeks and the onions and the cucumbers in Egypt. Let not the goddess of the Egyptians continue to cast shadows upon your faith in Christ so that you

become weak and powerless treading back on that broadway to destruction. Christ has through death destroy the power of death, that is the devil, to deliver us who through the fear of death were all our lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14-15). Christ is able to succor them that are tempted (Hebrews 2:18) for He has suffered being tempted and have defeated temptation at every point. Let faith prevail.

He exhorts us in Hebrews 4:1-3a let us fear God follow Him for our eternal good and not wander off, "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*. For we who have believed do enter into rest."

In the Exodus account, Israel finds in God their all sufficiency. He was tested and proved at every point a Deliver, Conquerer and Provider who deserve our whole-hearted allegiance and worship. Let us keep faith for it demonstrates that we are truly in Christ.

This is the first thought in v11, the fruit of faith which is our steadfastness in Christ, resting in His Person, that He is indeed that

merciful and faithful high priest that has made reconciliation for the sins of His people (Hebrews 2:17).

(1) Faith's Fruit – Rest (v11)

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Let us “labour” the Hebrew writer exhorts us. This word means “to use speed, that is, to make effort, be prompt or earnest, do (give) diligence, be diligent (forward), endeavour, labour, study.” It means “to hasten, be eager”. There is a quickening tone to it, that the believers be alive in the Spirit, trusting God whatever the challenge that may come to your Christian walk, not to give up, but resting in the Lord, conquering and finding victory over temptation so that you may enter finally into the Promised Land, your heavenly rest.

The word “rest” speaks literally means “*ceasing from* one's work or activity *rest* and metaphorically it speaks “of the spiritual fulfillment God provides for His people” [Friberg].

Walking in “the good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” is the rest that the writer exhorts us to persevere in. To present our lives a living sacrifice, holy, which is acceptable unto God.

This is the life that many heroes of the faith have treaded and completed triumphantly, you are able to do so looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Let there be spiritual fruit in our life by endeavouring to rest in God for all things pertaining to life, fearing nothing except to offend our God.

It will be most sad for any to fall out because of unbelief! The challenge for the Israelites in the wilderness was to obey God, trust His provision and move forward with Him into the Promised Land. Let not the obstacles raised in the way become insurmountable in your hearts and you fail to trust God's power and protection and provision for you along the way!

Have that single-mindedness to trust God and labour always to "rest" in His ways so that there may be spiritual fruit to your account.

The Apostle Paul demonstrated this single-mindedness in devotion and faith even amidst incarceration in prison - **Philippians 1:20-22 (KJV)** According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death. For to me to live *is* Christ,

and to die *is* gain. But if I live in the flesh, **this *is* the fruit of my labour**: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

(2) Faith's Food – The Word of God

12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Let the Word of God be your mainstay to ensure that there is no guile in your walk with God. You are true to your profession, true to your confession. You are who you claim to be.

The Word of God is faith's food to nourish us with faith to walk with Him - **Romans 10:17 (KJV)** So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Word of God provides for us the searchlight which the Spirit of God, the sword of the Spirit, does with our conscience to keep it tender and soft and awakened to the will of God for you.

Let us take time to meditate upon it, study it with prayer, and allow it to guide our steps in every area of our lives so that we may be able to say with confidence, this is the path for me to go!

Psalm 119:105 (KJV) NUN. Thy word *is* a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:107 (KJV) I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

Psalm 119:109-112 (KJV) My soul *is* continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law. The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts. Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes *always, even unto* the end.

(3) Faith's Forerunner – Jesus Christ Our Example (v14-15)

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin.

Jesus, the God-Man, our forerunner has completed His work that enables us by God's grace to receive Christ's righteousness, imputed upon us, though undeserving so that we have imparted to us moment by moment as we look to Himm to overcome temptation to sin and transgress the laws of God.

Jesus was tempted by the Tempter, Satan, after 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness. He did not capitulate but Satan was defeated at every test, the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, Jesus defeated!

1 John 2:15-17 (KJV) Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**

Jesus understands what it means to be tempted. He was tested. He understands what we are going through and is able to help us overcome.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to be sober and take heed to our ways lest we fall. In every temptation, God provides a way of escape. Let not anything or anyone come in the way of our devotion to God.

1 Corinthians 10:12-14 (KJV) Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God *is* faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with

the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear *it*. Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

(4) Faith's Fortress – The Throne of Grace (v16)

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Prayer is the means by which we find strength to overcome temptation and to endure every trial - **1 Thessalonians 5:17-19 (KJV)** Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.

God has by means of prayer, given us a citadel of hope from our troubles. Faith's fortress is the throne of grace.

In the Tabernacle, the throne of God is located in the holy of holies, the most holy place, there rest the ark of God and on it the mercy seat.

The high priest comes to the holy of holies once a year, after much ceremonial cleansing, to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice upon lid of the ark called the mercy seat so that the sins of the nation can be expiated on the day of atonement.

When Christ completed the work of redemption, He has once and for all defeated sin, symbolic of the curtain separating the holy of holies and the holy place that was torn into two that the access to

God comes now through Christ's Name who is seated at the right hand of the Father as our advocate.

Matthew 7:7-11 (KJV) Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

God's provision for the children of Israel in the Exodus through the giving of the law and the building of the tabernacle, provided a visual aid for our understanding how we can appropriate help from God through prayer.

God is our fortress and it is entered into by faith when we come to the Father through Christ.

CONCLUSION

Let us not be discouraged but press on with our Christian profession - **Philippians 3:13-14 (KJV)** Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.