

**THE LIFE OF FAITH IS LIVING IN THE REST OF GOD,
WHERE THE WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE BY CHRIST,
AND WE RECEIVE IT BY FAITH**

(Kaitaia Abundant Life Centre – 18/7/99 – EKB)

Readings: *Heb 4:1-3,9-11, Mat 11:28-30.*

A.

1. **We are not working and struggling to obtain forgiveness of our sins and to be right with God, *Tit 3:5, Eph 2:9.***
2. **Christ has already done that work for us on the Cross. *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Jn 1:7, Rom 5:9, Rev 1:5.***
3. **All belief systems, (Islam, Hinduism, Mormonism, Judaism etc) except one, (Biblical Christianity), believe you get right with God, have your sins forgiven and go to heaven, by **what you do.** (That is by doing good works.) **Biblical Christianity** alone believes that we have our sins forgiven, and are put right with God, **by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ** and his death and resurrection. *Eph 2:8,9, Rom 3:22, Rom 4:3,5, Gal 2:16.***
4. One day, talking to a young Hindu man on a country road, in India, I asked him what he was doing to get to heaven. He told me many things, such as offering sacrifices, visiting the temples, holy washings and helping the poor and helpless. I asked him, “How many of these good things do you have to do to get your sins forgiven?” He replied, “I do not know.” So I told him about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He believed the Gospel message and received Christ. He has become a strong believer in Christ. What are you depending on to get you to heaven?
5. **It is only by believing in Christ, His death and resurrection, that we can receive forgiveness of sins and be put right with God, *Ac 16:31, Ac 2:38, Rom 5:1,10.***
6. ***Mat 11:28.* Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.” The first step into the Rest of Faith, is to “come to” Jesus. There are five steps in “coming”:**
 - a. **Confess your sins**, turn from them, ask for and receive forgiveness, *1Jn 1:9.*
 - b. **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ**, His death and resurrection. *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, Rom 10:9,10, Jn 3:16,17.*
 - c. **Receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour into your life**, *Jn 1:12, Rev 3:20.*
 - d. **Tell others** you believe in Christ, *Mat 10:32.*
 - e. **Be baptised** in water into Christ, *Ac 2:38.*
7. **The second step of entering the rest** Christ has promised us, is **to take His yoke upon us**, personally, *Mat 11:29.* In India today the wooden ox carts are still trundling the roads as they did in Jesus’ day. The oxen are united as one by the strong wooden yoke. We are to take Jesus’ yoke upon us. **His yoke was the full surrender** of His life to the will of the Father, **and full dependence**, faith and trust in Him. *Jn 4:34, Jn 5:30, Jn 6:38, Jn 14:10.*

As a young man of 19years, I lay on the floor **and surrendered my life totally to God** and declared my **total trust in Him** for all things. This is how we take His yoke upon us.

8. Once we have taken His yoke, then **we can learn from Him** His ways of **meekness**, (KJV), and **humility**, which enable us to **abide in His rest**, *Mat 11:29*.
 - a. **“Meekness,”** KJV, AMPV, has a special meaning that is different from “gentleness.” It means to be **Spirit led and Spirit empowered**. (See Vines’ “Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words.”) Also see Pastors’ Notes No 30, “Fruit of the Spirit.” Jesus will teach you this life in the Spirit.
 - b. **“Humility,”** is taking the place of a **servant to God and to man**, *Is 66:1,2, Lk 8:21, Mk 12:29-31*. Caution! Before you can be a true servant to other people you have to find your own “identity,” “significance,” “self worth,” and “security” in God or else you will become a doormat to others, which is not God’s will for you. See Pastors’ Notes No 91, and No 127. Read: *Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:1-14, Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Gal 5:14*.

This is the way we enter into, and abide in, the Rest of God by faith, *Mat 11:28-30*. Living in the Rest of God is not an option. It is where Christ is living in us and through us, and where we have ceased from our own works, *Heb 4:10*.

B.

1. **We are not working and struggling** to get rid of and overcome some sinful habit, e.g. pride, fear, lust, lying, doubt, anger, hate, envy, bitterness, legalism, worry, inferiority, etc.
2. **Christ has already set us free at the Cross, *Rom 6:1-14*.**
3. As a man of 29years, my life had been dominated by anger for at least 14years. The more I struggled to get free the worse it became. One day someone showed me *Rom 6:6,11*. **Christ had already defeated sin** (in my case anger) and had set me free. For 14days I confessed, claimed and believed this truth, and at the end of this time 99% of anger had left my life, *Jn 8:31,32,36*.
4. **Believe and receive now, *Heb 11:1 (see AMPV)*.**

C.

1. **We are not working and struggling** to get free from and overcome demonic powers.
2. **Christ has already defeated satan** and set us free. *Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, 1Jn 3:8, Lk 10:19, Mat 4: 1-11, Is 54:17, Rev 12:11*.
3. One night, some years ago, while I was asleep in a friend’s house on a ministry trip, my host welcomed in people who were returning from Wellington, where they had been attending meetings taken by an Indian guru. About 2am in the morning I awoke and was totally paralysed by a powerful demonic spirit. All I could do was think. So in my mind I commanded the evil force to leave me by the Name and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It did so slowly. When I was able to use my lips and tongue, I spoke out the same things aloud and the demon went out through the wall and I saw it in the Spirit go and perch itself on the back axle of the housetruck parked at the front gate.
4. As we believe we receive, **now, *Heb 11:1(AMPV)***.

D.

1. **We are not working and struggling** to get healed and made whole.
2. **Christ has already taken away our sicknesses** and diseases and by His stripes we were healed. *Mat 8:17, 1Pet 2:24, Lk 17:19, Jam 5:14-16, Ps 103:3, Ps 107:20.*
3. About two years ago, we were returning from a ministry trip and called into the Starship Children's Hospital to see a baby girl who had very severe whooping cough. The coughing fits were choking her so that she could not breathe. The nurses had to use suction to clear her throat and get her breathing again. We cried out to God and He showed us 3 things to pray:
 - a. that the mucus would dry up,
 - b. that the cause of the mucus would be broken and removed,
 - c. that any mucus present would all come away freely and be got rid of.
 I took the baby in my arms and asked God to do these 3 things. I bound and broke the power and spirit of whooping cough and commanded it to flee in Jesus' Name. For about 30 minutes I praised and thanked God for total release and healing in the Name of Jesus. Then we left. The baby had one more major coughing fit, when lots of mucus was removed, and after that she was healed and well. Thanks to God for His Salvation.
4. **Believe and receive now**, all Christ has done.

E.

1. **No matter what our need is**, it has already been supplied for us by God, through Christ. *Phil 4:19, Rom 8:32, Jn 10:10, Eph 1:3.*
2. **It is not obtained by our struggling and striving**, our work, labour and effort, **but by faith in Christ and in the promises of the Word of God**, *2Pet 1:4.*
3. **Believe and receive now**, *1Jn 5:14,15, Mk 11:24.*