

The Mystery of Divine Rest – Part 1

Every soul desires rest, but not every soul receives rest. Every soul must come to rest for it to accomplish that which God has intended for it

n Psalm 23:1-2a the Psalmist said, *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures"* Jesus Christ is the shepherd of the souls of all that come to him. In John 10:11 Jesus said, *"I am the good shepherd..."* He goes before His sheep, and they follow Him. He leads them out to pasture, and He brings them in. He does all this by His word. His sheep hear His voice, and they follow Him. They will not follow the voice of a stranger because they do not know the stranger. So, Jesus Christ is the shepherd of the souls of men that have come to Him.

Let us look at Psalm 23:3, "He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake." Why would a soul need restoration if it has not been disturbed? Why would a soul require the restoration of the Shepherd if it has not been troubled? A lot of people in our world today only know trouble. They cannot escape from trouble. Some of them trouble are themselves. Then you wonder when these souls will find rest.

Psalm 31:1-5 reads, *"In You, O* Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your



righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me. For You are rock and my my fortress: Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and quide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth."

In this passage, the psalmist is crying for guidance and rest. Every soul desires rest, but not every soul receives rest. Every soul must come to rest for it to accomplish that which God has intended for it. That is why in Psalm 116 the psalmist cried for deliverance of his soul. A lot of people cry for rest but find little rest.

There was a rest that God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden, and that rest is the kind of rest you can only find in God

Psalm 116:1-7 says, "I love the Lord, because He has heard My voice and mv supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live. The pains of death surrounded me, And the pangs of Sheol laid hold of me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I implore You, deliver my soul!" Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; I was brought low, and He saved me. Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you."

The psalmist was aware of all that was going on around him. He was aware the enemy wanted to destabilize and trouble his soul. So, he pleaded with God, and he commanded his soul, *"Return to your rest, O my soul, For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you."*

What is this rest the psalmist was asking his soul to return to? Returning to it means that this was a rest he had known before. He was talking about the original rest that God gave to man who he created in His own image and likeness in Genesis 1. There was a rest that God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden, and that rest is the kind of rest you can only find in God.

Genesis 1:26-31 reads, "Then God said. "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it: have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

"And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

God gave man rest when he created him, and that is the rest the psalmist was asking his soul to return to. The rest that was found in the Garden of Eden before the fall. The psalmist was asking his soul to go back to that rest because that is where the establishment of good things is. That is where the power of God will move. That is where the glory of God will break forth. That is where the star of your creation will manifest.

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It was this original rest Jesus Christ had in mind when he spoke to His disciples in Matthew 11.:25-30, "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed aood in Your siaht. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus Christ was asking everyone that could hear him to come to Him for their lives to be meaningful, and for them to gain acceptance and recognition. All that are troubled, all that are laboring ceaselessly, and all that are doing profitless hard work. He said, Jesus Christ was asking everyone that could hear him to come to Him for their lives to be meaningful, and for them to gain acceptance and recognition

"Come unto me and I will give you rest." Jesus Christ promised rest.

WHAT IS DIVINE REST?

- 1. Divine rest is divine comfort.
- 2. Divine rest is divine balance. A lot of people in the world are out of shape. For some, their bodies are out of shape. For some, their minds are out of shape. For some, their relationships are out of shape. They do not find equilibrium in their lives. Let us look at Mark 6:30-31, "Then the apostles aathered to Jesus and told Him all things, both what they had done and what they had taught. And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." For there were many coming and going, and they

Divine rest is divine satisfaction. You will hardly meet anyone in this world today who will tell you that they are truly satisfied

did not even have time to eat." Do you see what Jesus Christ said? These days some people work so hard, and they do not have balance in their lives.

- 3. Divine rest is divine ease.
- Divine 4. divine rest is satisfaction. You will hardly meet anyone in this world today who will tell you that they are truly satisfied. Some people are so dissatisfied with everything around them that they look for another country to go and live in. Some are dissatisfied with their own lives. Some are dissatisfied with their families.

This was the case of a woman who married a lovely husband. This husband was unique

because of his profession. He а neurosurgeon. The was amount of money such doctors make in an hour could make you faint. They are always booked in advance. This man took care of his family with the wealth that he had. One day, the man came home, and the wife told him and the children she was going to go away for a while. The husband asked, "Where are you going?" She said, "I just want to go away from all of you. I don't want anything to do with any of you anymore." The husband thought she was joking, but she was not joking.

She walked out of the house without packing anything and checked herself into a shelter. The husband and children wondered what was going on. What did she want? The woman was at the shelter for two years and did not come back home. The husband sent people to her to ask what the problem was. "Is it anything we did? Is it me or the children?" The woman just said, "No. I don't want to have anything to do with family anymore. I just want to be by myself in this shelter." Some people were dying to have the kind of life that she had but it was not satisfying to her. She walked away from it.

people desire Some some things, and they think those things will satisfy them, but when they get those things, they realize that they do not bring satisfaction. Some people think, "Oh yes, if I have a lot of likes on Facebook, I will be satisfied." Only for them to be criticized by those who follow them on their Facebook page and then they want to commit suicide. God is the only one who can give satisfaction.

- Divine rest is divine peace. Trouble may surround you, but you have peace because you are in the rest of the living God.
- Divine rest is divine hope-filled existence. Your tomorrow does not scare you. You are not afraid of what you will wake up to see tomorrow because you are full of divine hope.

7 Divine rest is divine stillness. Thunder may break around you, but inside of you there is stillness. You are still and consistent. The world that we live in now does not know this stillness. That is why the disciples could not understand why Jesus Christ could sleep when He was in the boat with them during a storm. They asked, "How can He sleep in this kind of situation?" They went and woke him up rudely. When he woke up, he asked, "How long am I going to be with you, O ye of little faith?" And he turned to the raging sea and said, "Peace be still."

> Do you know why He could say that to the water? It was because He had stillness and rest inside of Himself. A lot of people are saying, "Peace be still" to the storms of their lives, but their situations are not changing because they do not have rest in themselves.

 Divine rest is divine freedom received through the reviving fire of the Holy Spirit. Peter denied Jesus Christ before the cock crew three times. The disciples were scattered. But they did not hide anymore after they gathered in the upper room and the fire of Pentecost came. They came out. They were not afraid anymore. They gained freedom by the reviving fire of the Holy Spirit that was upon them. The people who wanted to kill them did not scare them anymore.

I heard the story of a man who was born into a large family that had a problem. No male child in the familv ever survived. Before this man was born, every male child had died young. When he was born his parents were afraid that he would also die. They told him, "Listen, we do not know what happen to you, will but whatever happens, we will take it as coming from God. None of the male children we have had before you stayed because there's a power that is taking them." They told this to the child, and he also got afraid. So, he was always hiding under his mother's skirt thinking the evil power was always around. His father was always packaging him about like a bag wherever they went. They thought they were protecting him.

He was fearful and he could not stand by himself. Then he encountered Jesus Christ, and he gave his life to Christ. After he gave his life to Jesus Christ, he began to grow as a disciple. Then one day he told his parents, "I'm coming to visit you." They said, "No, don't come. We will come and visit you where you are. The powers that kill our male children are still around." He insisted, "I am coming."

When he got to the village, he went from house to house greeting everyone and telling them that he was back. They said, "So, you ran away all this time?" He said, "No, I'm not running any more, I am back." He stayed at his parents' house and that night there was an evil visitation. There was a troubling in their household. Nobody slept in that house. They did not know the power that came. It shook the rafters and the windows, moving everything. The son sat up and began to pray in the Holy Ghost. He prayed till the morning.

At davbreak he went outside and said, "You have seen that I am not the same person you ran out of this village. I am not going to be your food. You can never touch me because I am hidden in Christ, and Christ is hidden in God. I give all of you in this village seven days to accept Jesus Christ, otherwise things will start to happen." His parents said, "Oh, you have killed us now." He said "No, I'm going anywhere." He not stayed in the village and, after the second day, some of the old people started to come to him saying, "Is this thing you were talking about two days ago true?" He began to lead them to Jesus Christ.

9. Divine rest is complete harmony of spirit, soul, body and destiny. Everything that belongs to you is in harmony and your life is in harmony. That is divine rest.

- Divine rest is the tranquility of the spirit man. This is when you have serious quietness in your spirit man. When nothing external can touch it. You become unmovable.
- Divine rest is the stamp of divine pleasure upon a man. This is when God says He is pleased with your life.
- 12. Divine rest is complete devotion to the person of the Godhead. This is when you and the Godhead, God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are one.
- 13. Divine rest is the attraction of your heart and the focusing of your heart upon the living God. This is when your heart is attracted by all that God is and you are focused on Him as your all in all. That is what happened with the three Hebrew children. The king told them if they bowed at the sound of the music to the graven image that

he made, he will let them live. But if they did not bow. He said, "Who is that God that will deliver you from my hands and this fire?" But they replied, "We are not careful to answer you in this matter." They had divine rest.

They had something that is a far cry from what the believers have today. They had a heart that was focused on God and attracted by God alone. They said to the king in Daniel 3:16, ""O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."" There is an attraction that says we are one with God and there is nothing that can separate us. If God be for us, who can be against us? That is divine rest. It is not just talking from the head.

To be concluded in next month's edition

Sermon by: **Pastor Richard Ebofin** Mega Senior Regional Overseer (MFM Canada Western Mega Regional Headquarters, Calgary)

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the God of peace, and the peace that passeth all understanding.
- 2. I receive the rest that brings satisfaction, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the rest of God enter into my spirit, and let every storm around me die, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. Every fear that is making me to run from life, die today, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Every power that is making me to run a race that nobody set for me, let heaven put them to flight before me, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Let freedom come upon my life as I enter into divine rest, in the name of Jesus.
- Powers that want to waste me, let heaven waste them, in the name of Jesus.

Page | 9

- I come into the place of rest before God, in the name of Jesus.
- 9. Let heaven soothe everything that is contrary in my life, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 10. Let the rest of God come upon my life, in the name of Jesus.
- 11. Let my handwork, family, and health receive rest, in the name of Jesus.
- 12. I turn every destructive burden that is upon my life unto God, in the name of Jesus.
- 13. Let my suffering come to an end today, in the name of Jesus.
- 14. The trouble of the world around me will not cause me trouble, in the name of Jesus.
- 15. Let all my worries and anxiety come to an end today, in the name of Jesus.
- Every power contending with the agenda of Heaven for my life, be buried, in the name of Jesus.
- 17. Every power that has caged the work of my destiny and the work of my hands, release me today, in the name of Jesus.
- Atmosphere that will promote God and promote establishment, come upon me now, in the name of Jesus.
- 19. Every word of God that has been given to me and is yet to

manifest, manifest now, in the name of Jesus.

- 20. Every power provoking me to anger and provoking me to pursue that which God does not want for me, O God, remove them from my way, in the name of Jesus.
- That which makes me to cry in the day and night, O God, remove them from me, in the name of Jesus.
- 22. Every rock of wickedness that has been thrown against me, O God evacuate them and ease my pain today, in the name of Jesus.
- 23. O God my Father, command your rest upon me, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 24. O God my Father, speak from heaven and terminate every stormy situation challenging my life, in the name of Jesus.
- 25. I receive the stillness of the living God and the peace that comes from the hand of God, in the name of Jesus.

Word of His Glory



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July 2024: Month of Healthy Fellowship – Proverbs 12:26; John 15:13

Weekly Programs

Worship Service: Sundays 9 a.m.Bible Study: Mondays 6:30 p.m.Revival Hour: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.Prayer Vigil: Fridays 11 p.m.Early Morning Fire: Mondays 5:30 a.m. - 6 a.m. Tel: +1 587 405 1252 Code: 5407376#Revival Hour: Mondays 9 p.m. (WAT) – MFM Ministries HQ YouTube Channel

Monthly Programs

Power Must Change Hands -1^{st} Saturday of Every Month - 7 a.m. **The God that Doeth Wonders** -3^{rd} Friday of Every Month - 11 p.m.

South Calgary Branch (Not currently meeting at this location): Forest Height Community Hall, 4909 Forego Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 2C4 Airdrie Outreach Center (Not currently meeting at this location):

Genesis Place, The Echo Room, 800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, T4A 2K9

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