1Thess 46

Faith-rest

We will do the Lord’s Supper on Sunday at the end of the message.

Let us open back up in 1Thessalonians chapter 3 today.

Please keep my brother in Christ, Jimmy in prayer…we still don’t have the exact medical diagnosis about his son and that can be difficult for any parent to deal with.

Keep him and obviously his son in your prayers please.

As we have been noting the Apostle Paul has circled back around to a group of positive Bels in Thessalonica.

The letters to this group were to help keep them on track as well as keep the fellowship strong.

1Thes 3:4 For even when we were with you, we *kept* telling you in advance that we were going to suffer affliction; and so it happened, as you know.

We did some studying on the stumbling blocks and attacks against positive Christians recently.

Last lesson touching on the subjects of persecutions, adversity and suffering.

Today we will begin a series on faith rest which is a problem-solving device for all of these attacks and stumbling blocks.

/[1Th 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/5/s_1114005) For this reason, when I could no longer endure *it,* **I also sent to find out about your faith**, for fear that the tempter might have tempted you, and our labor would be for nothing.\

Satan and his army have a great deal of success attacking and derailing new Christians and knocking their faith out.

[1Th 3:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/6/s_1114006) But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and has brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us, longing to see us just as we also *long to see* you,

[1Th 3:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/1th/3/7/s_1114007) for this reason, brothers *and sisters,* in all our distress and affliction we were comforted about you through your faith;

Their faith was still strong and the Apostle Paul was excited to hear that news, even though he knew some false doctrine had invaded that group.

Verse 5 — “*For this cause, when I could no longer endure it*” — this is a continuation of what he started to say in verse 1.

It was the Apostle Paul who finally called the conference of his men and then decided to send Timothy back into Thessalonica.

/ *“I sent to him find out about your faith*” — by faith the Apostle Paul is questioning if they have been steadfast in staying with their faith in Christ. He is also checking to see if their level of application of faith-rest, is on course to protecting and keeping them strong. It is one of the first techniques once the two power options are in order within a Bel’s life.\

It concerns the Apostle Paul because they are new Bels.

The reference to the tempter means, of course, that Satan or his army have many ways of trying to get Bels distracted away from occupation with Christ. Satan has a high level of success at confusing new or uneducated Christians and it knocks them completely off course.

Paul mentions that the labor would be for nothing…in vain! The word for labor in the Greek is - *kopos* (COP-US), it means to labor to the point of exhaustion. It has a strong connotation for a physical beating or intense work.

When Apostle Paul was in Thessalonica he worked day and night teaching the Word of God.

He labored to the point of exhaustion.

There is an important principle you should realize:

/It is possible for the Bible to be taught day after day, month after month, year after year, and that Bible teaching can be vain, it accomplishes little or nothing. When Bels do not either apply it in their daily lives or even take it seriously, it is in vain. Just sitting and listening to a Bible class does not mean the Bel has fully digested and accepted into their soul.\

Jump over to Hebrews chapter 4 RF.

The skills or techniques of problem solving and reaching levels of SM take time and a serious intent.

By time and serious intent, it is related to an individual, Bel’s personal bible study time and the consistency of the filling of the HS.

/Faith-rest is a basic and early skill set that Bels should learn to adapt into their daily life. It consists of learning scripture related to the integrity and promises of God. Claiming doctrines and promises to stand in during adversity or challenges. Understanding God’s plan and God’s essence develops this skill at higher levels as you get deeper in tune to your personal relationship with Christ.\

So, using faith-rest during your first few years as a Christian will be a challenge. Yet you will grow and in a couple of years of consistency, you will find the faith-rest technique to be a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare.

Opening up in Hebrews chapter four we see the example of the Exodus generation who rejected the power and plan of God.

The first generation did reject faith in God, the second generation did not. Truthfully it was because of a few positive Bels – Joshua and Caleb being two of the most important.

Never under estimate the power of just a few positive Bels.

/Heb 4:1 Therefore, we must fear if, **while a promise remains of entering His rest**, any one of you may seem to have come short *of it.*

*“of entering into his rest*” — the aorist active infinitive of *eiserchomai.* To enter into or settle into something.\

ICE-AIR-CO-MY, The aorist tense is a constative aorist, it anticipates the action in its entirety.

One and done – the whole ball of wax. It took the whole 40 years of wandering in the wilderness for the Exodus generation to witness God’s promise of this rest.

The problem wasn’t God’s failure – HE is perfect! It was the Exodus generation who could not enter the promise for 40 years.

The first men and women that came out of Egyptian slavery with Moses did not have strong faith. They did not operate in faith-rest the way God called them to operate. REPEAT

Even with the parting of the Red Seas, after the plagues of Egypt and the miracles in the wilderness.

No faith-rest and they could not enter into a rest or Promised land which is a blessing in time.

/[Heb 4:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/2/s_1137002) For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also *did;* but **the word they heard did not benefit them**, because **they were not united with those who listened with faith**.

Notice it is not just about listening to the word of God. There is faith which means the Bel fully digested and accepted the truth.\

You can’t fake faith, because it will always be put on display at some point.

The original Exodus generation never received the Promised land – they lost out on blessings because they never grew up enough to apply faith-rest.

[Heb 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/3/s_1137003) For we who have believed enter *that* rest, just as He has said, “AS I SWORE IN MY ANGER, THEY
CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,” although His works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Fear and faith can never walk hand in hand, you can not have fear occupying your soul and be walking in faith.

It’s an oxymoron to say I have fear and faith both occupying my soul structure.

/2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us **a spirit of timidity**, but of power and love and discipline.

*Deilia-* comes from a root word for fearful, it means cowardice, lacking confidence.\

DIE-LEE-AH, comes from a root word that means fearful – filled with fear and the word itself, points to being a coward.

Faith-rest is BD in action…it is application of how you trust God and HIS word, you trust HIS plan.

You can not trust a plan or a person if you do not know them intimately.

/Habk 2:4 “Behold, as for the impudent one, His soul is not right within him; But **the righteous one will live by his faith**.

The one who is swelled up with pride will have faith in self.\

Impudent is the Hebrew word - *ʿāp̄al* (AH-FELL) it points to being overconfident or arrogant -puffed up!

The cosmic system promotes faith in self or faith in human experts or celebrities.

God wants our faith to be completely reliant upon HIS word, HIS nature and HIS plan. That takes time in the WORD.

/Isa 26:3 “**The steadfast of mind** You will keep in perfect peace, **Because he trusts in You**. 4 “Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, *we have* **an everlasting Rock**.\

TLJC is the ROCK – we have the mind of Christ. We have the ROCK! We have the nature of the ROCK - Jesus Christ.

The steadfast mind is SAW-MAK in the Hebrew, a term for a something that is supported or upheld by something stronger than itself.

Who is supporting or upholding you??

The cosmic system – human power or TLJC.

We will be closing today in Romans chapter four.

The Bel will gain a steadfast trust and a faith of substance if they lean all their understanding and trust upon God. /There comes a point for every Bel where they have to stop kicking against the authority of the word. Also, a point where they stop putting every scripture under the suspicion of error. After years of faithful and serious study, a Bel has to abandon the act of cherry-picking scripture. Or attempting to weave secular wisdom into their walk with God. If not, their faith will always have a weak leg.\

Instead of two strong legs under their Chrisian foundation, one will always be susceptible to cosmic viewpoint or counterfeit lies.

In Romans chapter four -The Apostle Paul is touching on faith as the only system we can have to find eternal security and also spiritual growth.

He is putting to rest the religious nonsense of rituals and legalism in relation to who we are in Christ.

/Rom 4:9 Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, “**FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM** AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Abraham was saved as all people are saved – faith alone in the one true Messiah alone! \

[Rom 4:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/10/s_1050010) How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;

His faith came long before a ritual of circumcision.

/[Rom 4:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/11/s_1050011) and he received the sign of circumcision, **a seal of the righteousness of the faith** which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

Circumcision is the removal of flesh – a new creature is created, that is the spiritual analogy.\

[Rom 4:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/12/s_1050012) and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham which he had while uncircumcised.

Abraham and Sarah left the land of Ur and he left his father when he was 75 years old. His faith was active for years before he was circumcised.

Abraham was 99 years old by the time he was circumcised!

Abraham came out from the early Babylonian culture when he was 75.

/[Rom 4:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/13/s_1050013) For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was **not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith**.

There was no Mosaic Law – everyone up until Abraham was 99 years old was a Gentile.\

You have no historical trace of the Jewish nation without Father Abraham.

[Rom 4:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/14/s_1050014) For if those who are of the Law are heirs, then faith is made void and the promise is nullified;

[Rom 4:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/15/s_1050015) for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation.

/[Rom 4:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/16/s_1050016) For this reason ***it is* by faith**, in order that *it may be* **in accordancewith grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed**to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is **the father of us all**,

The father (*patēr*) is in relation to one who is ahead or went before us – it speaks to a pattern in a family. A senior or leader.\

PAT-TAYA – has several definitions and one means an example who went ahead of you. It points to a father as we know it but also - an originator or ancestor.

Abraham is ahead of all Bels historically.

The Apostle Paul is speaking to Jews and Gentiles – mostly Roman Gentiles.

[Rom 4:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/17/s_1050017) (as it is written: “I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS”) in the presence of Him whom he believed, *that is,* God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that do not exist.

NATIONS in the Bible - almost always points to everyone across the world.

[Rom 4:18](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/18/s_1050018) In hope against hope he believed, so that he might become a father of many nations according to that which had been spoken, “SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE.”

/[Rom 4:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/19/s_1050019) **Without becoming weak in faith**he contemplated his own body, now *as good as* dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah’s womb;

Abraham & Sarah learned the skill of faith-rest over time! \

[Rom 4:20](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/20/s_1050020) yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God,

/[Rom 4:21](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/21/s_1050021) and **being fully assured** that what *God* had promised, He was able also to perform.

Faith-rest ensures we are growing and it is actually the driving force behind most of your blessings and crowns.\

[Rom 4:22](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/4/22/s_1050022) Therefore IT WAS ALSO CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

/Faith-rest should begin with a simple application of focusing on scriptures that highlight the promises and integrity of God. Faith-rest will grow into a trust of God’s plan and HIS doctrines that you begin to live by. The mechanics are simple;

1.The rebound technique. 2. The filling of the Spirit. 3. The faith-rest drill.\

The first 3 problem solving devices can be achieved at a higher level within the few months of your Christian walk if you are a serious student of the word.

The more you repeatedly use those first 3 in that exact order - the more spiritual growth you will begin to gain.