2Thess #127

The personal, daily Sabbath for the Christian.

Thank you all for the comments, emails and messages – my wife and I appreciate the concern and prayers.

It was a rough night of 50-60mph winds and some rain, but no major damage in my neighborhood.

We need to keep the folks up in the panhandle of Florida in prayer, they got trounced.

Let us pick up where we left off in Hebrews chapter 4.

This may extend into a 5 part series, depending upon where the Spirit leads me - so be prepared.

We are in a series related to the levels of SM – more specifically, the super-grace life which unlocks all blessings and rewards for the Bel.

The Jewish Believers of Jerusalem by 67 AD, had become very similar to the Exodus Generation of the OT.

Lacking strong faith after all GOD had done for them. Also becoming apathetic toward the principles and teaching of Bible Doctrine.

That is a recipe for self-induced misery followed by divine discipline eventually. Then the final discipline by GOD the Father – the sin unto death.

The Exodus Generation walked that path.

There is great, historical evidence it was a path walked by the majority of the nation of Israel on and off, for thousands of years.

Heb 4:3 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.

The reference to the foundation of the world tells us – GOD already gave all blessings and rewards in eternity past.

God often uses strong language in human terms to get our attention. As many of you know, if you have been with me a few years – this is a theological set of terms;

/Anthropopathism; to ascribe to God human emotional characteristics, such as anger, jealousy or wrath.

Anthropomorphism; to ascribe to God human physical characteristics, such as arms, eyes or breasts.\

The humanity of Christ has eyes, hands, legs and a human body – God the Father and God the HS do not.

All 3 beings of the divine GOD-head, have no issues with emotional nonsense such as anger or jealousy.

Other than righteous indignation, that Jesus displayed a handful of times, there is never a time GOD - in any three of HIS impeccable, beings ever sinned.

God’s perfection cannot, even intimately fellowship with sin or evil - it is impossible.

Again, one of several things GOD cannot do…sin or be associated with evil.

[Heb 4:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/4/s_1137004) For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”;

This is being taught, to wake up the backsliding Jewish Bels of Jerusalem. Who were walking in the same manner as the Exodus Generation.

The warning and lesson is, that the reversionistic Bel will not receive all God’s blessings already given to them.

[Heb 4:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/5/s_1137005) and again in this *passage,* “THEY CERTAINLY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.”

This particular Sabbath being highlighted speaks to the soul and Relaxed Mental Attitude of a mature Believer.

[/Heb 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/6/s_1137006) Therefore, **since it remains for some to enter it,** and those who previously had good news preached to them **failed to enter because of disobedience** (*apeitheia*),

Stubbornness, opposition to the divine will of GOD. An obstinate attitude.\

AH-PIE-THAY-AH, within the Greek root words is where we get our English word- APATHY from.

Most stubbornness and obstinate behaviors have a root in apathy – it is not just laziness it means careless. They become very arrogant toward anything or anyone, that doesn’t appeal to their lust patterns.

 REPEAT

/Apathy can be a dangerous pathway to spiritual and even personal, or mental destruction. It is a slow-moving journey. Yet once you get far enough down it, your attitude and norms and standards can change dramatically. Which means your thoughts, desires and personality can also shift toward a very selfish and dark place.\

Many friendships and marriages have suffered because apathy got a foothold for a period of time.

It is no different with your relationship with God.

/Familiarity and apathy are truly only a few steps apart if you are not paying attention. Once a person becomes familiar with another person. Or familiar with a set of cognitive concepts or routines, it is excellent for knowledge and wisdom application, yet it often leads to boredom and then apathy, if it is not kept in check.\

Apathy and laziness are the twin brothers, who will steal your spiritual growth along with your natural growth in society.

Lots of teenagers…especially boys who are allowed slothful lifestyles can grow up to be lazy adults.

You know the ones who are over the age of 25, and still living at home eating your food and playing video games on your couch all day.

 REPEAT

Just a little doctrinal advice from your pastor-teacher – do not allow that to happen. When they cross the threshold of those teenage years, you won’t have it at adulthood, if you nip it in the bud.

By the way, these are usually the same ones who make lousy congregation members, because they need their emotions stimulated all the time.

They also usually suffer from hypersensitivity.

I am certain I made some new friends with that statement.

[/Heb 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/7/s_1137007) He again sets a certain day, “Today,” **saying through David** after so long a time just as has been said before, “TODAY IF YOU HEARHIS VOICE, **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS**.”

The reference is from David in Psalms 95. The issue always comes down to how we apply our own free will to the plan of God. In the end that determines your spiritual growth.\

David referenced one incident from Numbers 20, when the Exodus generation ran out of water.

But the rebellion was an ongoing issue Moses and Aaron faced on a regular basis for nearly 40 years.

/Psa 95:7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand. **Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts** as at Meribah, As on **the day of Massah** in the wilderness,\

Many ancient Jewish scholars called the book of Psalms - the book of David, because he authored so much of it.

The day of Messah, is one of the key points of testing that they failed. They melted away within their souls, is what the original Hebrew speaks of.

The Exodus generation repeatedly failed tests and challenges that GOD put in front of them. So, they walked in a circle of self-induced misery in the wilderness for 40yrs.

Remember, Israel is a picture of the Bel’s soul – many Christian’s walk in a life circle of misery which is self-induced. REPEAT

They are always just outside the plan of GOD, just off of the rhythm of the timing of GOD - because they do not have a real relationship with HIM.

 [Heb 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/8/s_1137008) For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.

IF- is a Greek 2nd class condition meaning, if and it is not true.

/Those Israelites under Joshua’s command never completed the military action of clearing the land of the seeds of Satan. Therefore, Israel always had satanic influence and attacks around every corner. Israel had times of prosperity and rest, when GOD’s word was their anchor. Yet they also had many years and leaders which were demonic, bringing misery and discipline. \

[Heb 4:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/4/9/s_1137009) Consequently, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

The writer of Hebrews reminds that current generation, residing in Jerusalem that super-grace is still available to them in the year 67 AD, just as it always is available through God’s grace plan.

/The Sabbath is often misunderstood. The original Sabbath of Genesis 2:2 was designed by God to teach grace. God rested because everything was provided in grace for man. The lesson was to continue to commemorate grace by doing no work on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath was never designed to be complicated or difficulty, it was designed to be a time of rest, relaxation and tranquility, a reminder of God’s grace.\

This is not a deeper study on the Sabbath. Yet we do need to touch on key principles to understand the super-grace life and the connection to the Sabbath.

Between Hebrews chapter 3 into Chapter 4 - the lesson becomes apparent that Israel failed at the basic concept of Sabbath several times, in several different ways.

They had many failures; the Sabbath was so simplistic and yet they stepped all over it.

They even failed at the command of giving the land a Sabbath.

/To distort and reject the command of God’s Sabbath was like Israel rejecting and distorting God’s grace for mankind. It was the same attitude that was seen in the garden. WE will become like little gods and we will determine our own power. We will implement our own plans by taking what GOD creates in grace and distorting it to our own pleasure or purpose. \

The standard of Sabbath for the nation of Isreal was for that dispensation.

Everything changed at the Cross of Christ.

/The Jews began to set up rules and regulations for the (Saturday) Sabbath that were ridiculous and had nothing to do with grace. The Sabbath was not designed for overt activity, it was to remember grace and appreciate HIS plan. Therefore, God had to change it, because Christ fulfilled everything. We have the super-grace Sabbath, known as the moment-by-moment Sabbath, to rest entirely on what God has provided.\

Believe it or not many Christians today even make an issue out of Saturday being a day of rest not Sunday.

Which means they do not understand the age they live in nor the full person and work of Jesus Christ.

/The Jewish feasts had a certain order and the First-fruits was always on Sunday. The reason was that the ‘feast of the first-fruits’ speaks of resurrection — the resurrection of Jesus Christ, was also on Sunday. Jews always rejected a Sunday Sabbath, to this very day they still do. A Sabbath to them was any day that they worshipped. On an ancient Jewish calendar, Sunday is the first day of the week. (Yom Rishon)\

Often times the priest would go out all by himself and wave a sheaf of grain before the Lord, beginning the feast of the first-fruits.

Fifty days from that Sunday there was another observation which always bothered them because fifty days from Sunday is always a Sunday — Pentecost.

This is all historical facts, that traditional Jews do not like to discuss with well informed Christians, who understand the resurrected Christ.

/Jesus Christ was resurrected on a Sunday; Jesus Christ began the Church on the first Pentecost - Sunday, fifty days after His resurrection. Jesus Christ walked forty days on the earth before He ascended to the right hand of the Father. Ten more days and then the Church began on a Sunday, day of Pentecost. So, we observe the resurrection and the beginning of the Church Age every Sunday. \

The CA Bel is called into a day-to-day Sabbath, which is also part of our faith-rest drill.

The mature Bel begins to actually live in a life that is very difficult to upend…the mature Believer handles pressure and adversity with an amazing calm assurance.

Super-grace must be distinguished from God’s grace and the distinction comes from words used such as in James 4:6 —

/Jam 4:6 But **He gives a greater grace**. Therefore *it* says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.”

This is God’s provision for the Believer based on human volition. The greater our growth the more grace is activated in our walk.\

Greater grace has always been there.

The life of super-grace is the highest level and it will carry into the eternal state as well. Meaning all crowns and blessings or rewards will be fully realized.

God provided certain things for you totally apart from your volition — salvation, your daily needs, protection in the angelic conflict...etc. But “more grace” or “greater grace” such as in James 4:6 is God’s provision for the Believer based on human volition.

 REPEAT

It was allotted in eternity past but it also has a capacity trigger upon it.

/The question of growth in the angelic conflict is super-grace or greater grace. Grace is not a problem because grace is provided for you apart from your volition. God gives from grace, nothing we earn or deserve and even the super-grace blessings were already given. Which tells us ALL Bels have a super-grace life yet to fulfill. GRACE is an incredible expression of God’s love that is often overlooked. Greater grace is just a few steps ahead for all Bels who want to grow up. It is all part of your blessings you did nothing to earn or deserve.\

So now we can relate to the Believer at Super-grace is analogous to God resting on the seventh day.

This mature Bel is walking with a calm assurance and a powerful faith that carries them through all of life’s challenges.

They enter heaven receiving all that GOD had given them in eternity past.

God’s desire for us to grow in HIS grace and knowledge is so that we achieve the full blessings of HIS grace plan.

/2Pet 3:18 but **grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

Phlp 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may overflow still more and more in **real knowledge and all discernment**, 10 so that **you may discover the things that are excellent**, that you may be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ;\

/Heb 6:1 Therefore **leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity**, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Luk 8:15 “But the *seed* in the good soil, **these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and virtuous heart**, and hold it firmly, and **produce fruit with perseverance**.\

The greater grace can increase and that leads to a super-grace life.

/Col 1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard *about it,* have not ceased praying for you and asking that **you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, **bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing in the knowledge of God;\**

/Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, **you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles** of the actual words of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone **who partakes *only* of milk is unacquainted with the word** of righteousness, for **he is an infant**.\

The majority of Christians today fit into Hebrews 5:12-13.

[/Heb 5:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/heb/5/14/s_1138014) But **solid food is for the mature**, who **because of practice** have **their senses trained** to distinguish between good and evil.\