

## **True Disciple #25 Rest**

Welcome to True Disciple message #25. This is Rod Nichols and I'm glad to be back with you. For a couple weeks I've been seeking the Lord for the next message and it was finally revealed. This is a big one. Today, we're going to talk about Rest.

In Genesis 2:2 we see that God has finished His creation work and so He rests. This doesn't mean that He was tired and plopped down in His big recliner to watch some TV, no this just meant that His creation work was complete. God is still actively at work (John 5:17) and active in our lives through the Holy Spirit.

The end of Hebrews 3 and the beginning of Hebrews 4 talk about God's rest and how we have the opportunity to enter it. Many think this refers to our rest after we die and it does, but it also refers to a rest we can enter during this lifetime.

When God used Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He offered them His rest in the promised land, but because of their unbelief, they didn't enter either the promised land or the rest (see Hebrews 3:7-11). Once the first generation had died, God told Joshua to take the next generations into the promised land and God's rest. Joshua did take them into the promised land, but not into God's rest (Hebrews 4:8).

The good news is that as long as it is "today" God's rest is still available (Hebrews 4:7), so we have the opportunity to enter.

What does this rest look like? Hebrews 4:10 says, "for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from His." So, does that mean we don't have to work anymore? No, remember that even in God's rest, He is still at work. He's just not creating anymore. When we enter God's rest, we no longer rely on our works to please God, get His favor, or advance in the Kingdom. Instead, we rely on the works of Jesus, who said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) This removes all the expectations and stress. In God's rest, we can rely on Him to have the ideas, give us direction, favor with people, energy, wisdom, and perfect timing.

Hebrews 4:11 reads, "Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience." The "their" references the 1<sup>st</sup> generation Israelites who perished in the wilderness, because of their disobedience. By entering into God's rest, through faith in Jesus and His plan, we will flourish. There will still be trials and tribulation, but take heart Jesus has overcome the world. We just have to keep walking with Him (walking in the Spirit) and those trials and tribulations won't hurt us.

Peter had a moment where he entered God's rest and walked on water (Matthew 14:28-31) and Jesus said that he did it with just a little faith. However, when Peter got his eyes off Jesus and focused on the storm and waves, his unbelief/doubt caused him to sink.

True disciples walk by faith, not sight. They keep their eyes on Jesus, even in the midst of major life storms. They enter into God's rest, like Jesus did in Matthew 8:23-26, when He was sleeping in the back of the boat, in the middle of a violent storm. In contrast the disciples were panicking and fearful. The rest was available in the boat, but they did not enter, because of their unbelief/doubt.

What are the storms in your life? Are you facing them with faith or fear? Are you in God's rest, trusting in Him or are you trying to do it on your own and failing? It's still today, so that rest is available to you. Enter in.

That's it for message #25. A reminder to review these short messages over and over on the True Disciple site at [www.TrueDisciple.info](http://www.TrueDisciple.info). Click on the weekly messages button under the current message on the front page. On that site you will also find great blog posts, articles, and many amazing resources. Make sure you subscribe to the email list, so you get our updates when things are added to the site.

I hope you have a truly restful week. Talk with you again soon!