

# Hebrews

## Entering Into God's Rest (Part 3)

### Hebrews 4:6-13

#### INTRODUCTION:

**Hebrews 4:6-13 (NASB95)**

#### BODY:

#### I. How do We Enter Into Gods' Rest?

**A. Personal Faith.**

**B. Sovereign Decree.**

**Ephesians 1:3-6 (NASB95)**

**2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)**

**Revelation 20:12 (NASB95)**

**James 2:24-26 (NASB95)**

**John 6:35-40 (NASB95)**

**John 6:44 (NASB95)**

**Romans 10:12-13 (NASB95)**

**Hebrews 4:6 (NASB95)**

**C. Immediate Action.**

**Hebrews 4:7 (NASB95)**

#### II. What is the Nature of God's Rest?

**A. It is Spiritual.**

**Hebrews 4:8 (NASB95)**

**B. It is for the People of God.**

**Hebrews 4:9 (NASB95)**

**C. It is Future.**

**Hebrews 4:10 (NASB95)**

**Revelation 14:13 (NASB95)**

#### III. What is the Urgency of God's Rest?

**Hebrews 4:11 (NASB95)**

**Hebrews 4:12 (NASB95)**

#### CONCLUSION:

**Hebrews 4:13 (NASB95)**

# Hebrews

## Entering Into God's Rest (Part 3)

### Hebrews 4:6-13

#### INTRODUCTION:

This is the third part of our message from Hebrews. I am going to need your attention from the very beginning because I am going to jump right into the message. We have a lot of important things to cover.

In the first part of the message we learned the definition of God's rest, and that everyone has access to that rest. In part two we covered the first of three ways by which we enter into God's rest. That was by personal faith. Now we will cover the second and third way by which we enter God's rest and learn of the Nature and Urgency of God's Rest.

#### All Stand and Read Scripture

##### **Hebrews 4:6-13 (NASB95)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, <sup>7</sup> He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts."

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. <sup>9</sup> So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. <sup>10</sup> For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His. <sup>11</sup> Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience. <sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

#### Prayer

#### BODY:

##### I. How do We Enter Into Gods' Rest?

There are three principles involved: Personal Faith, Sovereign Decree, and Immediate Action.

##### **A. Personal Faith.**

First of all God's rest is available by personal faith. This is from **our** standpoint.

## B. Sovereign Decree.

Then it is available by Sovereign Decree. This is from God's standpoint. It is the **balance of salvation**. You are saved because of two things. You are saved because of your personal faith and because of the total and absolute sovereignty of God who chose you in Him before the foundation of the world.

Let me show you how the two fit together according to the scriptures.

### **Ephesians 1:3-6 (NASB95)**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, <sup>4</sup> **just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world**, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love <sup>5</sup> He **predestined** us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

This is God's sovereignty. Everyone who will enter into God's rest has already been determined by God and their names have been written in the Lamb's Book of Life. You are saved because He knew whom He was going to redeem before the world was ever created. That is what is known in the Bible as predestination election.

Now you may say "That is not fair! If God has already determined those who were going to be saved before we ever existed and my name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, then I do not have any chance to be saved and enter into God's rest."

But the scriptures say that God's desire is that everyone would be saved.

### **2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, **not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance**.

So how can both of these conditions exist? How can God wish that everyone would come to repentance and at the same time already know who they are? It is because God knows the past, the present, and the future. He gave us free will to accept or reject the Gospel and He already knows how each of us are going to respond.

## **ILLUSTRATION:**

We all know the results of every NFL football game that has been played. The final results have been recorded for us. So we can say with certainty the winner of every game. The results will never change. When the players started the game they did not know the final outcome as God did, so they played very hard trying to win. They knew that unless it was a tie, someone was going to lose. But they did not enter the game with the attitude that they had absolutely no chance to win.

Since God knows the past, present, and future, then He already knows how we will live our life. But during our lifetime we are given **free will** to live however we choose. We do not know the future, but we **do** have the opportunity to accept or reject Jesus Christ and live according to His commands while it is still "**today**". Even though the names of everyone who is going to be saved are already written down, we are still going to be judged according to the way we lived our life.

## Revelation 20:12 (NASB95)

<sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, **according to their deeds.**

This is from our personal standpoint. We are judged based upon our faith and whether we obeyed His commands because of our belief and gratitude for what God has done for us.

Remember what James told us?

## James 2:24-26 (NASB95)

<sup>24</sup> You see that a man is **justified by works** and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

We are to have an active faith. But we also **must** know that we are not saved by our works. We cannot do anything to earn our salvation. Our salvation comes only by grace from the completed works of Jesus Christ on the cross. **Thus our works must be combined with faith.**

Jesus put both principles together in **John 6** when He was speaking to those who were following Him around during His ministry.

## John 6:35-40 (NASB95)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst. <sup>36</sup> But I said to you that you have seen Me, and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup> **All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out.** <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of My Father, that **everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life**, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

## John 6:44 (NASB95)

<sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me **draws him**; and I will raise him up on the last day.

So what did it say in verse 44? That "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me" - **Does What?** - "Draws Him." But Jesus also says "that everyone who beholds the Son and - **What?** - "believes in Him will have eternal life."

"The one who comes to Me" - "I will certainly not cast out." There you have the balance of salvation. It is the absolute sovereignty of God and our personal faith. **Sovereignty is the supreme authority of God to do as He wills based upon His foreknowledge. Our Personal Faith is based upon our free will to believe or reject the Gospel and obey God's commands. (Repeat)**

## Romans 10:12-13 (NASB95)

<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same *Lord* is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; <sup>13</sup> for “**Whoever** will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

That is the **key** to our salvation. So the ultimate decision on who is saved is God's problem, not mine. I am just glad He said, “**Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.**” I will let Him worry about how He justifies that with his absolute sovereignty.

Therefore we do not only have saving faith but we also have sovereign decree.

### **Hebrews 4:6 (NASB95)**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience,

Do you see what happens here? Rest still remains. Why? Because God could not cut off His rest. Do you know why? It is because that would mean that God started something that did not have any purpose. Although God started rest and His people in the wilderness “**failed to enter because of disobedience**”, it does not mean that God discarded His rest. God is not like you and me. He does not do things that do not matter. You understand that? So if God started a rest then somebody is going to enter that rest. That is exactly what it says. “**since it remains for some to enter it**”. You see? God could not cut it off because he does not do things that do not matter.

So when God established his rest and man failed to receive it, then God had to go into a recovery process through Christ to get some people back into it. And by divine decree, there is a remnant throughout history of believers who are in His rest. It is always a narrow way and there will always be a few who find it.

So, in order to understand how we enter rest, we must know two things. First of all, it is by personal faith and obedience to God's Word. That is our part. And secondly, it is by divine decree. That is God's part.

### **C. Immediate Action.**

Then there is a third principle that is crucial to enter God's rest. That is Immediate Action.

### **Hebrews 4:7 (NASB95)**

<sup>7</sup> He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, “Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.”

Pay close attention to the third word. “**He again**” – does what? – “**Fixes**”. God fixes a certain day for our salvation. Do not think the age of grace is forever? “Quoting from **Psalm 95** again, David said “**Today if you hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.**”

**And so you see the basis of entering into rest is, number one, personal faith, number two, divine decree, but number three, immediate action.** That is why the apostle Paul said, “Today is the day of salvation.” Right now!. This is God's today.

When you see the word “**today**”, what does it mean? It means the day that **salvation is offered**. The day that **rest is available**. And so the Spirit of God is saying “Act Immediately! Today does not last forever. Life ends. It could end for some of you tonight.

Jesus may come tonight. Your heart may become hard tonight. The promise will end, and God's rest will be lost forever. This is an urgent cry and that is why it has been repeated four times.

## II. What is the Nature of God's Rest?

Then I would like to investigate the nature of God's rest. It is Spiritual, It is for the People of God, and It is Future.

### A. It is Spiritual.

#### Hebrews 4:8 (NASB95)

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that.

**Now**, the Holy Spirit is going to switch from a physical rest of Canaan. That was only a foreshadowing of the rest to come. If it was just a Canaan rest that he was talking about it would have ended when Joshua brought them into Canaan. But that was not the issue. They may have experienced a partial physical rest, but God is talking about a **spiritual** rest. The true rest that comes not through a Moses or a Joshua, but through Jesus Christ.

### B. It is for the People of God.

God's rest is for His people.

#### Hebrews 4:9 (NASB95)

<sup>9</sup> So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God.

There is one thing that all the cults always promise and that is happiness and health and wealth and so forth in this life. That is never the promise of God. God promises that His rest is spiritual, not physical. Some of the people who have experienced the greatest amount of the rest of God are the busiest, hardest working non-resting people from a physical standpoint. Consider how hard Moses and Paul worked physically.

### C. It is Future.

#### Hebrews 4:10 (NASB95)

<sup>10</sup> For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

The ultimate rest for man is future. There is a rest coming when we will cease from our works. "What does that mean?" John describes it in the book of Revelation.

#### Revelation 14:13 (NASB95)

<sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them."

This is a reference to that final day when we cease from everything we do on this earth and enter into the presence of Jesus Christ. So, we see the nature of rest. It has a present sense, it has a future sense, and it belongs to the people of God.

### III. What is the Urgency of God's Rest?

Then the Holy Spirit, through the writer of Hebrews, close with a warning.

#### **Hebrews 4:11 (NASB95)**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall, through *following* the same example of disobedience.

This is not the idea that you work your way to salvation. It is the idea that you diligently seek to enter God's rest by faith. This is not something that you put off. It is something you move into rapidly, urgently, with great diligence. Do not be like them. Do not fall away because of unbelief. God cannot be trifled with and that comes out in **verse 12**.

#### **Hebrews 4:12 (NASB95)**

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

He is saying that you better give diligence to enter into God's rest because the Word of God is living and powerful. And it will pierce right down to the inner most part of your heart to see if you are really real or not. You cannot trifle with God. God's Word will penetrate your heart to see if you are for real.

You may say, "Well, I believe, and I profess Jesus Christ," but if you have never exerted a real repentant, saving faith, my friend, when judgment comes, the Word of God will cut you wide open and it will reveal the hypocrisy of your profession of Christ. The Word of God is alive. It will show you whether your profession is real or a sham. Some day in great judgment, the Word of God is going to dive into your heart and lay it bare. And the your hypocrisy will be revealed. The sword will make a true evaluation of your profession, And if the revelation is hypocrisy, then that sword becomes a sword of execution.

### **CONCLUSION:**

#### **Hebrews 4:13 (NASB95)**

<sup>13</sup> And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Do not think that you can by your profession of faith in Christ and your religious activity, that you can fool God into believing that you are for real when you are not. That is impossible. Everything is open and naked before him. It is as if our physical activities and the things of our heart are all portrayed on a video screen before God. He is able to see everything that everyone from the beginning of time has done or thought.

The period of opportunity is called today. God desires that all will repent and obey His commands. **We must act Immediately!** Today does not last forever. Life ends. It could end for one of us tonight. Jesus may come tonight. Your heart may become hard tonight. Then the promise will end, and God's rest will be lost forever. This is an urgent cry!

**What A Day That Will Be.**