

Faith Rest Part 3

Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13

Welcome back and here we go! Today we will continue in our conversation about why Israel DID NOT enter into that *rest* and why we can. As we will see again, the writer of Hebrews warns us by saying “*beware... lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief...* ”.

Let us not be those people who call good evil or who despise God’s lessons or corrections.

Hebrews 3:7 – 4:13

1) What is *Faith Rest*?

As I said before, I will continue to open with this question. Hopefully, by the end of week 5, we will be able to identify where we have it and where we don’t in terms of our own lives. Week 1, we talked about worry; Week 2, our giants; Week 3, provision.

We have a lot going on here. Historically, this is the same location as the first “No Water Test” as we will see in the Faith Rest Grace Notes.

2) What do you know about God’s provision for you in times of trouble?

********From Grace Notes on Faith Rest********

The Second No Water Test is in Numbers 20. Historically, now, we are near the end of the forty years wandering occasioned by the sins and unbelief of the previous generation. Most of those who were adults thirty-nine years ago have died in the wilderness. Now their children are adults and they have apparently learned nothing! For here is a repetition of the no water test, in the same location and virtually under the same circumstances as the first one.

Num. 20:1. Miriam died at this time and she was buried in Kadesh. Her death is representative of those who were removed under the final stage of divine discipline, the sin unto death. Now the new generation faces the issue of Faith-Rest living.

Num. 20:2. “There was no water for the congregation...” God will permit tests of all sorts, usually in the form of some disaster, heartache, frustration, or pressure situation which could be classified as a no water situation.

You can handle a no water situation in two ways. You can try to solve it yourself, or you can put it into the Lord’s hands. The issue is what takes place in the soul. Resting in God, claiming the promises, requires categorical knowledge of the word of God and a proper attitude of faith toward the Lord and His teaching.

No hopeless situation is really hopeless when viewed from the divine viewpoint. A believer who has Bible principle applied in his life is going to manifest many things, including a relaxed mental attitude, true happiness and joy and a reliance on promises.

A no water situation is never a no water situation with God. He has provided the water for every situation before the world was created. The promises of God are never superimposed on the believer's life. They are an expression of His love, but God does not force His love upon us.

The believer who does not live in the word has mental sins, fears, worry, anxiety, bitterness, etc. This is expressed through murmuring. The believer with doctrine in the soul expresses his own love for God through Faith-Rest.

Num. 20:3. "The people chode (meribah) with Moses..." As soon as things go wrong, the sin nature begins to express the darkness in the soul, bitterness, implacability, fear. This causes the people to murmur against the authority which God has provided and they blame Moses and Aaron for the whole thing.

These people are actually suicidal, an evidence of great inconsistency, extreme emotional swings, and complete disorientation to life.

Num. 20:4,5. Note, this evil place that the congregation is complaining about is exactly the same place where God had demonstrated His love and grace before, by providing water! The believer who calls grace evil has a badly scarred up soul. They have negative volition to grace and the promises of God. In their self-consciousness they have self-pity. Their mentality is dominated by mental attitude sins of worry, bitterness, vindictiveness. Their emotions are unstable. In their conscience they have strictly human viewpoint and standards.

They are thinking of the details of life, and they expect the details of life to bring them happiness. Any believer who ignores the word of God and looks to details of life for provision and happiness has had it! The word of God points the believer toward God; human viewpoint points him toward Egypt.

When a believer recalls something from his past, something pleasant, instead of recalling the promises of God, he is looking back at Egypt. A Christian who operates on grace principles can leave Egypt behind. He will be confident and happy in any situation, because God is greater than the most hopeless situation.

God demonstrates His love for us through adversity in a way that would be impossible in heaven. Heaven is a perfect environment, with no problems of any kind.

Hebrews 3:7-9 "Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit says, today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation (meribah: from the Hebrew of *Psalms 95:8-11*), in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers put me to the test, proved me, and say my works forty years."

To harden one's heart means to have a habitual and willful unbelief in God and His word. God was faithful to the people for the whole forty years of wilderness wandering, yet they failed the no water test.

"No hopeless situation is really hopeless when viewed from Divine Viewpoint."

God has seen us before the foundation of the world. He has seen your issues long before they present themselves. In addition, he ALREADY has the solution. It is not like He is under a lot of pressure to come up with a solution. The answer is already there.

3) What detail of life do you feel is missing that could make you happy (happier)?

In terms of *Grace Provision*, everything we have, God has provided. For the Israelites, God had provided for 39 years and yet here they are again.

In your lifetime how has God provided for you? How long has He provided for you, yet here you are again.....

“You can handle a ‘no water situation’ in two ways. You can attempt to solve it or you can put it in God’s hands”.

When we look back to old things and remember how great it was, instead of looking to the future, we are neglecting and forgetting the promises of God.

4) Think back to the time in your life, the area in your life, or the thing in your life that changed.

What changed -- to bring you worry, stress, sadness, anxiety, unforgiveness, anger, etc.?

Basically, if we are recalling the time before that point.....

God’s promises are for today, tomorrow, eternity.

God has been faithful to you. People may have failed you. Family may have failed you. Friends may have failed you. The government / system / world may have failed you. God has NOT.

A Christian who operates on grace principles can leave Egypt behind. They will be confident and happy in any situation. Because God is greater than the most hopeless situation. Do you believe this?

5) What promise can you claim today in regards to God’s provision?

Think on the issue. Then think on the promises. Don’t look back!

Next Tuesday – Bible Study “*Faith Rest – Part 4*”