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Entering Into Rest
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Many times when we hear a truth that is going to move us to a higher level or we hear a truth that is going to able us to walk in victory or we hear a truth that is going to encourage us or we hear a truth that is the answer to any challenge that we might be facing, unfortunately there is always resistance to that truth. As we grow in the Lord, we know the end result, we move over into those areas that enable that truth to become a part of us. As we hear that truth or principle, resistance will come. Matthew, Mark and Luke all address that principle.

Mark 4:13-14 "And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14 The sower soweth the word." KJV

Matt 13: 3-13 "he spoke many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand." KJV

Luke 8:12 "Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." KJV

If we don't understand this parable, we won't understand how the kingdom of God operates. It is imperative that we understand how the sower sows the seed which is the word of God, this seed is sown in four different types of soil which is our heart and depending on the type of soil, it will determine the harvest, but the devil comes immediately to steal the word out of our heart. He knows that the word of God is so powerful and if it should root down, spring up and grow in your heart, that he has a lot of problems. There would be an outward manifestation of "greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world." He comes through trials, tribulations, deceitfulness, resistance, all to do one thing and that is to steal the word of God from our hearts.

Matt 13:19 "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side." KJV

If we hear and don't understand how the kingdom of God works, then the devil takes it from us. However, on the side of faith, when we understand and act on it, the enemy cannot take it out of our heart, it begins to grow.

The seed or word does not produce fruit overnight, but begins to grow as we begin to nurture and take care of it, producing a harvest, this is how the word of God works in our lives.

How do we resist the devil attempting to steal the word from us, allowing this from happening in our lives?

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me." KJV

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled (distressed, agitated). You believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely on God; believe in *and* adhere to *and* trust in *and* rely also on Me." AMP

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." KJV

In chapters 14 through chapter 17 of the book of John, Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure to heaven, it was challenging for them until the end, they finally realized what He had been telling them.

Pro 23:7 "For as he *thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." KJV

* thinketh is another word for gatekeeper, ie: janitor being in charge of an opening or door.

We are the gatekeepers of our heart, our emotions or our will. We alone have the authority and power to open the door and allow these negative emotions to enter in, but we have the power to close and not open the door when they are knocking and pressing in so hard.

Paul is teaching about the problems that he has encountered, but knowing that he has the answer to the trials, he helps us to know that because we have the word of God sown in our hearts, our bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit, that we have the power to overcome the enemy. This power goes beyond our strength, the power is the excellency of God.

2 Cor 4:1,7-11 "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 8 We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are *perplexed, but not in *despair; 9 *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; 10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh." KJV

* perplexed has gotten to the point that there is no way out, mentality exhausted * despair utterly at lose
*persecuted hammered on, to be pursued, hunted

2 Cor 4:8-10 "We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies." NLT

2 Cor 4:8-9 "We are pursued (persecuted and hard driven), but not deserted [to stand alone]; we are struck down to the ground, but never struck out *and* destroyed; Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." AMP

Paul is telling us that he was troubled, perplexed, persecuted and cast down but even with all this, he still was not distressed, despairing, forsaken or destroyed but he continued to have joy. This is how the enemy is pursuing us, as we are beginning to move to a higher level. His plan is to keep us from receiving what the Lord has for us. What is the enemy after? He is after the treasure that is on the inside of us, the resurrection life, the word that we have received.

Heb 4:12 "For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing *and* sifting *and* analyzing *and* judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." AMP

Paul is defending the work that he has been doing, he is trying to explain to the people what he has heard and been said to him, but is unable to do so, because the devil has tried to steal the word from him and has been tormenting him with an evil spirit, he asked the Lord to take it from him, but God assured him that His grace was sufficient, however during this time, Paul has not lost his joy.

2 Cor 12:9-10 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." KJV

2 Cor 12:9-10 "But He said to me, My *grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for *My* strength *and* power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) *and show themselves most effective* in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses *and* infirmities, that the strength *and* power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me! 10 So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased *and* take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities *and* distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength)." AMP

*grace is always associated with power, grace is never disconnected from power, another definition of grace is unmerited favor. Grace is God's power working in you, enabling you to do what you are not able to do by your own ability and strength

How do we get to that place of peace? The following scriptures teach us how. It is a choice that we must make, taking a hold of our hearts, speak to ourself and overriding the emotions that arise. The devil cannot steal the word when we resist him. God is greater and we have the word, He is not done blessing us, favor is stored up for His people, but we don't know how to tap into it.

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." KJV

John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give *and* bequeath to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. [Stop allowing yourselves to be agitated and disturbed; and do not permit yourselves to be fearful and intimidated and cowardly and unsettled.]" AMP

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." KJV

How do we move over into peace? Don't let your heart be troubled, keep your joy and continue with prayer mixed with thanksgiving.

Phil 4:6-8 "Be *careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." KJV

*care means to always be drawn in a different direction in anything that happens,

We can't allow this to happen to us, to keep this from happening, we must pray and give thanksgiving, then God's peace will keep us from worry and agitation. Tell Him every detail of what is going on and then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding will make answers known to you through Jesus.

"Don't be pulled in a different direction worried about a thing, be saturated in prayer through out each day offering your faith filled request before God with overflowing gratitude." Passion Translation

v. 8 this is the last thing that we want to hear when the enemy is challenging us on every side.

But don't be pulled in a wrong direction, remember the resurrection life on the inside of you. The devil has been paralyzed because greater is the one who lives in you.

1 Pet 5:5-8 "Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. 6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: 7 *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." KJV

Grace or power is given to the humble, He resists the proud. Pride won't admit that a mistake has been made, God is not wanting to bring us down. Casting all care on Him, don't let pride or thinking that you are strong and can handle everything that happens by yourself, give it to Him, let Him carry the problem. Humility says "I need Gods strength", admitting that you can't handle it and allowing Him to work on your behalf. We cast our cares on Jesus because He cares for us and He will pack our burdens for us. Quit trying to do things on our own, keep putting the cares back on Him. We may say that we don't have any cares, but our body language will say different, just taking a deep sigh will say different.

*cast means a decisive action that you do, ie: putting a saddle blanket on a horse, doing something on purpose, letting him carry you around instead of you packing for him, making him work for you

God wants the best for us, resurrection life, the enemy tried everything to hold Jesus down and defeat Him, but he couldn't do it. We have that treasure on the inside of us, the word is growing on the inside of us, we are caretakers of our lives and we won't allow the enemy to take it from us. There is a rest in Jesus, enter into that rest, we do that by having the word on the inside of us. There will be resistance, but don't expect it, expect victory. We will triumph in every aspect of our lives.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace *and* confidence. In the world you have tribulation *and* trials *and* distress *and* frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]" AMP

The following scripture is set to wild, enthusiastic, triumphant music. It says that everything is going to turn out alright, and the writer will continue to trust in the Lord and rejoice in Him.

Hab 3:17-19 "Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation! 19 The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, *and* my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] *and* make [spiritual] progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]!" AMP

We are going to walk in victory in all areas of our life, circumstances will have to change. We have resurrection working in us.