

Resting in the Finished Work of Christ

(Hebrews 1–11)

There are believers carrying weights that God never asked them to carry:

- The weight of constantly trying to prove that they are saved.
- The weight of striving to be perfect enough for God.
- The weight of wondering after every failure:
 - “Am I really saved?”
 - “Am I truly born again?”
 - “Does God still accept me?”

Yet even this inner conflict reveals something important: there is love for God within you. There is conviction. There is a consciousness of righteousness. Something in you grieves when you move contrary to the nature of Christ. But many of us remain stuck in trying to **prove** we are sons, instead of learning how to **live** as sons.

The Question of Assurance

How can you enjoy salvation if you are constantly terrified that you are about to lose it?

“For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.” — Hebrews 10:14

Salvation is not fragile. It is anchored in Christ’s obedience, not ours.

The Joy of Salvation

David prayed:

“Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.” — Psalm 51:12

Notice he did not say, “Restore salvation unto me.” He said, “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation.”

The salvation itself was secure. What David longed for was the **joy** that flows from resting in God’s finished work.

Living as Sons

Romans 8:15 declares:

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”

Fear makes us slaves. Faith makes us sons. The Spirit of adoption assures us that we belong to God—not because of our performance, but because of Christ’s sacrifice.

Possessing vs. Enjoying Salvation

There is a difference between **possessing salvation** and **enjoying the reality of salvation**. You can know doctrines about grace and yet live inwardly as though everything depends upon your performance. You can confess that Christ has saved you while living every day underneath anxiety, condemnation, and fear.

But Jesus said:

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” — John 8:36

Christ did not save us into another form of slavery. He did not deliver us from the bondage of sin only for us to become slaves to the fear that He may reject us tomorrow. God is calling us to think differently.

There Remains a Rest

One of the great revelations in Hebrews is **rest**:

“There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works...” — Hebrews 4:9–10

Rest does not mean inactivity. Rest means you have stopped attempting to establish through yourself what Christ has already established for you.

- Stop working **for** acceptance.
- Start working **from** acceptance.

Those two lives may look similar outwardly, but inwardly they are completely different.

The Fruit of Two Lives

The fruit of working **for acceptance** is often anxiety:

- Have I prayed enough?
- Have I fasted enough?
- Am I holy enough?
- Does God still love me?
- Did I do enough for Him to receive me today?

But the fruit of working **from acceptance** is rest:

- You pray because you are His.
- You pursue holiness because you are His.
- You obey because you are His.
- You serve because you are His.

You are no longer trying to become accepted. You are responding to the acceptance you have already received in Christ.

Justified by Faith

Romans 5:1–2 declares:

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

Justification is a **legal standing before God**. It means God has declared the believer righteous on the basis of Christ’s finished work.

Notice the language:

- *“We have peace with God.”*
- *“We have access.”*
- *“This grace wherein we stand.”*

Christianity becomes exhausting when you spend your life trying to earn things that God says have already been freely given to you in Christ.

Grace and Holiness

But does grace eliminate holiness? Absolutely not.

Paul anticipated exactly that misunderstanding:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” — Romans 6:1–2

Grace is not permission to pursue sin. Grace is **freedom to pursue holiness** without hiding from God whenever you fall. Grace means you can run to God instead of away from Him. It means your pursuit of holiness flows from love, not fear.

Where Do You Run When You Fall?

One of the greatest evidences that you understand grace is revealed by **where you run when you fail**. Religion teaches you to run away until you feel clean enough to return. Grace teaches you to run toward the One who can cleanse you.

“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” — Hebrews 4:16

Think about that:

- When do you need mercy? When you have failed.
- Yet Scripture does not say, *“Hide until you have fixed yourself.”*
- It says: **COME BOLDLY.**

The throne you approach is called the **throne of grace**. When you fall, you do not repair yourself until you become worthy of Christ. You return to Christ because He alone is able to restore you.

If Righteousness Came by Works, Why Did Christ Die?

Paul writes:

“I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.” — Galatians 2:21

If you could secure your standing before God through the strength of your own good works, then what did Christ die for?

- Your holiness matters.
- Your obedience matters.
- Your works matter.
- Your discipline matters.

But none of those things become the **foundation** upon which your salvation stands. They are what is **built upon the Foundation**.

Paul tells us plainly:

“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” — 1 Corinthians 3:11

The foundation is Christ. Your works are built upon Him. Therefore, never reverse the order.

- You do not make Christ secure by your works.
- Christ makes you secure enough to produce good works.

The righteousness of Christ will hold you when you learn to stand upon it.

Look Unto Jesus

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith...” — Hebrews 12:2

The Christian life begins by looking unto Jesus, and it continues by looking unto Jesus.

He is not merely the One who started your faith. He is the **Finisher** of it.

Our mistake is that after coming to Christ by faith, we sometimes begin trying to perfect ourselves by human effort.

But the focus has always been Jesus.

- Not your ability.
- Not your perfection.
- Not your performance.
- **Jesus.**

He is the center.

This Is the Work of God

Jesus said:

“This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” — John 6:29

Before Christianity becomes a life of **doing**, it is a life of **believing**. Faith places the weight of salvation upon Christ rather than upon yourself. And when your eyes remain upon Him, transformation begins.

Beholding Produces Becoming

Paul writes:

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” — 2 Corinthians 3:18

Notice the order: **we behold, and then we are changed.**

There is a transformation that comes from seeing Christ correctly.

- When you behold Him, confidence begins to return.
- When you behold Him, condemnation loses its voice.
- When you behold Him, you begin to understand your acceptance.
- When you behold Him, you begin to desire what He desires.

Christian transformation is not merely: *“Try harder not to disappoint God.”* It is: *“Behold Christ until His nature begins manifesting through you.”*

We behold, and we become.

Holiness Is the Fruit of Abiding

Jesus gives us another picture:

“Abide in me, and I in you... He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” — John 15:4–5

Fruit is not produced by a branch screaming: *“I must produce fruit!”* Fruit appears because the branch remains connected to the vine.

Likewise, holiness is the fruit of abiding in Christ.

When you begin losing your grip spiritually, the answer is not merely to increase religious effort.

- Return to the Vine.
- Abide.
- Remain.
- Look unto Him.
- Receive from Him.

Jesus did not say: *“Struggle hard enough and eventually you will produce fruit.”* He said: *“Abide in me.”*

You are not trying to become holy so that Christ will accept you. You have been accepted in Christ; therefore, remain in Him and allow His life to produce its fruit through you.

The Spirit Is God’s Seal

And God did not leave your salvation dependent entirely upon your emotional strength. He gave you His Spirit.

“...after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” — Ephesians 1:13–14

Think of a package that has been sealed for its destination. The seal declares ownership and destination. God has placed His Spirit upon the believer as the pledge of what is still to come. The Spirit is not merely visiting you temporarily. Jesus promised:

“...that he may abide with you for ever.” — John 14:16

You are learning to yield to the One who already lives within you.

The Spirit of Adoption

Paul writes:

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God... ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” — Romans 8:14–17

You have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear. You received the Spirit of adoption.

This changes the entire posture of Christianity:

- A slave works wondering whether the master will accept him.
- A son works because he already belongs to the house.

Somewhere we must stop trying to prove sonship and begin learning to walk in sonship.

Let Christ Be Christ

You do not have to become your own saviour.

Let Christ be who He is:

- Saviour
- Lord
- Redeemer
- High Priest
- Author
- Finisher

And you become who you are in Him: **accepted, justified, adopted, sanctified, and being transformed.**

When condemnation begins screaming, “*Are you really saved?*” — do not construct your confidence out of your recent performance. Look unto Him.

Repentance Is a Return to Christ

Repentance is not merely beating yourself until you feel sufficiently guilty. Repentance is a turning. A change of mind. A returning of the heart toward God.

When you realise you have stepped away from abiding, return to the Vine.

- Behold Him again.
- Hear Him again.
- Yield again.

Christianity is not fundamentally about trying harder not to disappoint God. It is abiding in Christ until His life becomes increasingly visible through you.

Christ Died While We Were Still Sinners

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8

Christ did not begin loving you after you became impressive. He loved you while you were still a sinner.

If His love began before your performance, why imagine that your performance sustains His love?

This does not produce carelessness. When truly understood, it produces worship. Grace does not make holiness unnecessary. Grace finally puts holiness in its proper place:

- Holiness is not the root of our acceptance.
- Christ is.
- Holiness is the fruit growing from that root.

The Message of Hebrews

The great progression of Hebrews points our eyes away from ourselves and toward Christ:

- **Hebrews 1** — The superiority and glory of the Son.
- **Hebrews 2** — Do not neglect so great a salvation.
- **Hebrews 3–4** — Believe God and enter His rest.
- **Hebrews 5–7** — Christ is our perfect and eternal High Priest.
- **Hebrews 8** — A better covenant established upon better promises.
- **Hebrews 9–10** — Christ offered Himself as the sufficient sacrifice; we now draw near with confidence.
- **Hebrews 11** — Therefore, live by faith.

The entire movement shifts confidence away from self and onto Christ.

Cease From Your Own Works

“For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works...” —
Hebrews 4:10

This does not mean stop obeying. It means stop trying to make your obedience accomplish what only Christ could accomplish.

- Stop trying to purchase with works what Christ purchased with blood.
- Stop trying to earn what grace has already given.
- Stop trying to establish your own righteousness.

Rest in His.

Then, from that place of rest:

- Pray.
- Obey.
- Fast.
- Serve.
- Love.
- Pursue holiness.
- Resist sin.
- Walk in the Spirit.

But do it as a son—not as someone desperately applying for adoption.

Pursue Holiness From a Place of Acceptance

Pursue holiness with everything within you. But never use holiness as currency to purchase what Christ has already freely given.

- You do not pursue holiness to become loved. You pursue holiness because you have encountered Love.
- You do not obey to become a son. You obey because you have received the Spirit of adoption.
- You do not produce fruit to become a branch. You produce fruit because you are abiding in the Vine.
- You do not work for salvation. You work because salvation has begun a work inside you.

And having rested from the attempt to save yourself, you discover that Christ is able to do in you what your own striving could never accomplish.

