

since we have found the truth. Our spiritual needs have been met, we have been centered in Christ, we have peace with God through Christ, and He gives us strength to live life.

2) The availability of rest. Hebrews 4:1

a) The key problem .

God had openly offered rest for Israel but they rejected it, they would not enter into the rest of God, the writer is stating that all believers need this rest but far too many don't enter into God's rest, when we don't accept God's promises they will not bear fruit in our lives.

b) The solution .

God has not removed the promise of rest. It is still available for us and our lives. All we have to do to enter His rest is accept it.

3) The nature of rest. Hebrews 4:2-3

a) Personal faith .

Real rest in God starts with faith. Those who do not believe in God will never enter His rest. It is just not possible, those who don't trust Him will never have the fullness of rest, they will never be able to let go and let God do His work. We will never be able to get the fullness of relationship if we hold back on our resting in Him.

b) Divine decree . Hebrews 4:4-6

God sets the example for us. He took one day from that week of creation to rest. God rested not because He was tired but because He was finished with His work. God commands us to enter His rest. God wants the best for us, and this includes resting in Him.

c) Immediate action . Hebrews 4:7

God expects us to follow Him. When He calls we are to answer. Too many times we fail to listen or are too hardened to hear. Far too many fail to follow. Instead they walk down their own path or they do not walk where God is directing. When God calls we must act and obey. It must be an immediate action. The longer we wait to follow the harder it becomes to do so.

What it takes to follow

- a. A willing spirit
- b. An open mind
- c. A courageous heart

4) The nature of rest. Hebrews 4:8-10

a) Spiritual .

We have been given new life in Christ. We no longer need to live in search of spiritual things. Those who are without Christ or the freedom of Christ are in bondage to religion and religious searching. They search from philosophy to philosophy, religion to religion, and regulation to regulation. What separates Christianity from all religions is the aspect of relationship. Religion is based on rules but Christianity is based on having a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Far too often Christians get wrapped up in keeping regulations over having a relationship with God. You cannot fully enter the rest that God has if you base your faith in rule keeping.

b) Designed for Israel .

The Sabbath was for Israel to follow. God designed it as a way to instruct and lead the people. They focused on God by ceasing all work for one day. Following God's example in creation, it was not just a ceasing of work but it was time set apart for

God. While we do not observe the Sabbath, traditionally Christian worship is based on Christ's day of resurrection. However, we still need the day set apart for worship, to focus on Jesus.

c) Future in nature .

God has a plan for every life and that plan will come to completion in death. We have a special rest in God awaiting us. It is an eternal rest that brings us into full restoration and relationship with Him. God also has a larger plan for True Israel and wants them to enter into His rest. He alone will bring this to completion.

5) The urgency of rest. Hebrews 4:11-13

a) Highly needed .

Rest is highly needed. If we are to follow God, we must enter into His rest and focus on Him. This is not just a onetime thing but rather a daily part of our lives. Resting in God shows our faith and trust in Him.

b) Fully provided .

We need the full rest of God. God has a specific purpose and plan for our lives. He wants us to follow and obey Him. Resting in God means trusting Him and walking with Him. We can hide nothing from God. He sees our hearts and knows our thoughts. We may be able to fool others and even ourselves but we cannot fool God. He knows everything there is to know about us and He will judge us for it.

Conclusion

How can we have rest with God?

1. Rest is available: God still gives rest to those who seek it. He wants us to find that which will benefit our souls. All we must do to receive God's rest is accept it.

2. Rest is crucial: We all need to enter God's rest but often fail to do so. We try so hard to be our own person. We see that God wants us to be in deep relationship with Him. We need to lean on Him for strength and support.

Three keys to resting in God:

a. Personal faith: We must believe in God before we will receive His rest.

b. Immediate action: We must follow when God calls.

c. Courage to do as God wants us to do.

Enter God's Rest!

Being a Perfect Person

About thirty years ago a husband and wife went to Times Square on their honeymoon. It was seedy, run down, and a pretty dangerous place. So when their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary came around they wanted to go back there for nostalgic purposes, but were almost afraid to. The time came and they decided to make the return trip. They were surprised to find it busy, clean, and safe. What made the difference? When Rudolph Giuliani first became mayor in 1994, he decided to focus on the little things around Times Square to make it more inviting. Giuliani hired a new Police Commissioner, William Bratton, who applied the *broken windows theory of urban decay*, which holds that minor disorders and violations create a permissive atmosphere that leads to further and more serious crimes that can threaten the safety of a city. The vagrants, the graffiti, and the little problems were all cleaned up. When that happened all the big problems like robberies and muggings started to go away, too. Within the years of this couple's married life, Giuliani was widely credited for major improvements in the city's quality of life, and in lowering the rate of violent crimes. Control the minor evils and you will control the major evils. At least that is the theory and it worked in Times Square.

It's like comparing big lions to little foxes. In our struggle to live rightly before God it is

usually the big lions that get our attentions first. Peter describes Satan as a vicious lion that seeking to devour and destroy us. It is a very powerful picture of the one who wants to tear us away from presence of God (1 Peter 5:8). This hungry roaring lion is the image we have when we hunker down and defend ourselves from the attacks of the enemy. But it is not always the roaring lion that eats us up. In the Song of Solomon King Solomon tells of a marriage relationship that is like a fruitful vineyard. But then he warns us that it is the "little foxes" that nibble us to death. "Our vineyards are in blossom; we must catch the little foxes that destroy the vineyards" (Song of Solomon 2:15).

It's the lion of adultery that can certainly destroy a marriage. But it's the "little foxes" of snide remarks, sarcastic comments, cynical observations, angry blasts, and cool responses that gut the inside of a relationship and leave it a dry dusty shell. The words that come out of the mouth can not only eviscerate a marriage, they can also pummel a church leadership or ruin a student's reputation.

That's why James tells us in his letter that the most dangerous tool of destruction is the human tongue (James 3). In fact, he says that anybody that learns to control it has become a perfect person. The word "perfect" doesn't mean "without flaw" (whew!). It speaks of maturity, wholeness and completion as a person. The man or woman that has their tongue in cheek and under submission is a person who has become a complete and balanced person.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, July 10, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice, Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: Isaac Waters

Wednesday, July 13

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study 6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 14

R Team.....6:30 pm

Sunday, July 17, 2016

Choir Rehearsal..... 9:00 am

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Gary Yarbrough, Joseph Coats, Isaac Waters

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Evening Worship.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, July 20

Youth Study..... 6:30 pm

Prayer / Bible Study6:30 pm

Adult Choir 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 21

O Team.....6:30 pm

Up-Coming Events.....

July 13 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

July 17 — Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting

— Food Pantry Collection Day

July 21 — Food Pantry Day

July 24 — Diversicare 2:30 pm

July 25-29 — SJBA Children's Camp at Grand Oaks

July 30 — Movie Event at First Baptist Church, Savannah, MO 6pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Nights

We will have Sunday Evening Service here tonight. Hope to see you there.

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

We will meet this Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Prayer matters!

Prayer Warriors
Wednesday, July 13
10:00 am
Here at the church.

Fellowship Dinner and Business Meeting

July 17, at Noon

Please plan to attend and fellowship with us as we conduct the business of the church.

July 17 is...

Food Pantry Collection Day!

You may place your non-perishable items in the basket in the hallway at any time.

Thank You!

Diversicare Nursing Home

July 24, 2016 at 2:30 pm

Please join us as we minister to those who can no longer attend their own churches.

In Sympathy

We offer Christian Sympathy to the family of Mary Ann Bonebrake, Marcia Hart's

mother. She passed away June 29, 2016.

*Thank You
To Our Church Family,*

--Thank you Allan and Tim. You both did a wonderful job with the service. The ladies did a great job with all the food. All the ladies who came down and watched Joyce, I can't thank you enough. Thank you all for the love you gave to Joyce and thanks for all the cards, calls, kind thoughts and prayers.

Tim Izer and Family

--Thank you for your recent donation to our food pantry. We appreciate the faithful giving of the members of your church. God has blessed us with so many caring people.

*God bless you, Maggie Wall
Patee Park Food Pantry*

For the Record-

Attendance: July 3, 2016

Sunday School.....	46
Visitors.....	9
Total.....	55
Contacts Made.....	6
Morning Worship.....	62
Children's Worship.....	N/A
Sunday Night	N/A
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget.....	\$ 2,040.52
Offering Received...	\$ 3,032.43

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

July Counting Team:

Fred Kerns and Jordan Lane

July Van Driver:

George Burgess

Call 232-3747 before 8 am

July Member Birthdays:

02... Mary Sharp
05... Kathryn Beavers
07... Kelsey Lane
15... Bill Schottel

17... Betty Anslinger
20... Dorothy Post
23... Flora McKahan
24... Allan Lane
26... Jack Conard
26... Annette Schottel
30... Bill Haskins

July Anniversaries

Don and Mary Sharp

July 3, 1970

Gary and Sharon Yarbrough

July 8, 1978

Don and Marcia Hart

July 15, 1973

Larry and Flora McKahan

July 29, 1966

Prayer Requests ...

Pat Puckett—health
Marcia Hart's Family
Audrey Dugan—recovery
Tim Izer and Family
Sue Higgins—regain strength
Jim Winans, surgery recovery
Alicia McKinnon
Linda Raines, breast cancer
Dakota Duty, recovery
Robbie Hutcherson, Loleta's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter
Nellie Reynolds—recovery
Youth and Children's Camps
LoLeta Middleton—strength
Maxine and George Ferbert—strength
Buddy Means—Mary Sharp's nephew
Ellen Blanton and Lois Ulmer—
 Elvera's daughter & daughter-in-law
Stella Davis and Linda Rails—Doris
 Richardson's sisters
Henrietta Caballero—Brigida's Sister
Austin Chalfant—Abby's nephew
Gary and Marilyn Singleton—health
Audrey Dugan Bob Barquist
Kathryn Beavers Ann Riddle
Louanne Laurence Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Leona Reynolds
Kevin Duty Kenny Duty
Madeline Swink Bobby Griswold
Bill Haskins Debbie Sands
Brenda Burgess Judy Anderson
Carolyn Houts Roscoe Lane
Missionaries Don and Diane Combs
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace
Jeanette Swackhamer—Beja People

Our Nation and Leaders
Our Military Service people
Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
