

Session #18

# Stillness

## The Work of the Bond-slave To give ear to His Master

### **Sabbath**

The practice of dependence

I am more and more sure by experience that the reason for the observance of the Sabbath lies deep in the everlasting necessities of human nature, and that as long as man is man the blessedness of keeping it, not as a day of rest only, but as a day of spiritual rest, will never be annulled. I certainly do feel by experience the eternal obligation, because of the eternal necessity, of the Sabbath. The soul withers without it. It thrives in proportion to its observance. The Sabbath was made for man. God made it for men in a certain spiritual state because they needed it. The need, therefore, is deeply hidden in human nature. He who can dispense with it must be holy and spiritual indeed. And he who, still unholy and unspiritual, would yet dispense with it is a man that would fain be wiser than his Maker.

F. W. Robertson

### **Sabbath** – shabbath (Hebrew) sabbaton, sabbata (Greek)

To rest from labor; to cease, desist; the doubled b has an intensive force, implying a complete cessation. The Sabbath, originally instituted for man at his creation, is of permanent and universal obligation – it is not merely for Jews but for every human that breathes. The physical necessities of man require a Sabbath of rest. He is so constituted that his bodily welfare needs at least one day in seven for rest from ordinary labor.

#### **The Deeper Spiritual Meaning:**

God, in His design of men, purposely created an inherent weakness – a weakness that if ignored would prove man’s downfall – but a weakness that if understood and embraced would prove man’s ultimate triumph and strength. *God made men to need rest.* Man is limited, grows tired, and ultimately cowardly and faithless if he does not find rest from his ordinary labor. Yet, if man listens to God about his design, and rests one in every seven days, he will find amazing physical and emotional refreshment and a recharged battery for the challenges of life that lie ahead. This pattern for “honoring the Sabbath” is detailed with great precision in the Old Testament, but what the Jews understood mostly as an outward and external truth of God’s creation, was in actuality a brilliant foreshadow of an even deeper truth about God design of men – His internal,

spiritual design for men. For, as we are inherently weak physically, we are even more so spiritually. In fact, our spiritual weakness is so vast that we need more than merely one day of rest in seven in order to be quickened, recharged, renewed, and enabled to climb the Holy Everest of God. To be spiritually alive and vibrant, we must learn to make the entirety of our life a Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ. Not one day a week, but seven days a week every hour, every minute, even every moment. As Christ modeled an absolute dependence and rest in His Father's Life, ceasing from His own "God-ness" and doing only what His Father was doing and speaking only what His Father was speaking – so we, the bondservants of Christ, must learn to cease from our own "god-ness" and find the very same dependence and rest in the Life of Jesus Christ – crowning Him God and all Glorious, allowing Him to work for us and invigorate us to continue upward in the Holy climb of Faith, Love, and Hope. In the New Testament this extraordinary expansion and spiritual fulfillment of the Old Testament Jewish Sabbath is known by many names; the Abiding Life, Dependence, His Rest, Yielding, and Grace – but all speak of the same thing, ceasing from self's labor and allowing Christ to labor on your behalf. This is the mystery of the Sabbath, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to the Saints – Jesus, the Lord of the Sabbath, must become our Life and we must learn to live and move and have our being in Him.

If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

**Isaiah 58:13-14**

Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spoke in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remains that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because

of unbelief: Again, he limits a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remains therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

**Hebrews 4:1-11**

## **The Lnen-Wrapped Christ**

Yet another evidence of the Canonicity of Christ

**Note:** Christ is the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament. He is the Word made flesh. He is the Law of Moses made flesh, the entire God-designed Hebrew Culture made flesh, the prophecies made flesh, the sacrifices made flesh, the temple made flesh, and the wisdom of God made flesh. He is the manna, the rock in the wilderness, and the Passover Lamb made flesh. And it must not go overlooked that He is also the Holy Sabbath made flesh. In Him is demonstrated, both inwardly and outwardly, the perfect fulfillment of the Sabbath. Even though He is/was God, He made Himself wholly dependent upon God the Father, and did nothing out of His own self. He spoke and acted out only what the Father was speaking and acting out. He exemplified to perfection the Sabbath Rest in His inward existence, abiding in God, yielding to God, and living and moving and having His entire being in God. And outwardly, just as He was the Passover Lamb, He was also the double Sabbath that immediately followed the crucifixion – the ultimate demonstration of God resting after the work was “finished”, for He had made the way for a new creation.

And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

**Genesis 2:2-3**

This man (Joseph of Arimathaea) went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulcher that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulcher,

and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.

Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spoke unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words.

Luke 23:52 – 24:8

## **The Intent of Man** - The Lamp

To enter into the Rest of God – the mystery of Godliness

Man was designed to be a light, a receptacle of God's presence, a conductor of God's current.

The light of God's glory was meant to shine forth from man's yielded life. But this hinged upon a cause/effect relationship. When man depends on God (the cause, the electrical current, the Power) then man shines forth like a brilliant sun, demonstrating to the entire heavens the glory that is God's. But man has no power in himself to bring light to his lamp. The power of God is necessary to bring about the light.

**Question:** When a man yields to the power of God, do the heaven's see God Himself? The answer is yes "in expression", but no "in substance". What they see is the effect of God, the power of God, the beauty of God, the glory of God. They see a light shining as a result of a God empowering. They see the image of God but not the Person of God.

The image of God is made visible even while the Person of God still remains invisible.

Herein lies the mystery.

Christ was God, but he limited himself to behave as man. He limited Himself to become a Light, a receptacle of God presence, and a conductor of God's current. If God had come to this earth

as God, to behave as God, He would have never been seen but through mere shows of cloud and fire. But He came in the form of man

- to behave as man
- and not to behave as God
- but, as God, to restore the original intention of man in his relationship to God.

He came to make God visible the way *only man* is able to make God visible - by depending on God as His source of power. He demonstrated how man was designed to come alive, how man was created to function, how man was crafted to showcase the Glory of God. He made clear through His life that man is made perfect by leaning upon the strong arm of God, depending on Him for every morsel of sustenance, allowing Him to hold the throne of man's existence, and obeying His every command even if it leads to a humbling cross.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

**Phillipians 2:6-8**

Christ was God in the flesh, relinquishing His right to behave as God, in order to showcase the perfect Man depending on the Father.

To perform in perfection on earth the role for which Christ as God had created man, He had of His own free volition (will) to accept the limitations imposed upon His own creature and to allow the Father as God, to be the origin of all His own behavior as man, so that His godliness as man was derived directly and exclusively from the activity of the Father in and through the Son.

**Ian Thomas**

**The Mystery of Godliness, p184**

He is the exact likeness of the unseen God – the visible representation of the invisible.

**Colossians 1:15a**

**Amplified Version**

I can of my own self do nothing

**John 5:30**

In spite of His eternal equality with the Father and with the Holy Spirit in the Trinity of the Deity, the Lord Jesus Christ for our sakes made Himself *nothing* (Phil 2:7), that the Father might be *everything*, and be glorified in Him! In an attitude of total dependence, He exercised toward the Father as God, that perfect "faith-love" relationship for which man by Christ Himself had been created!

**Ian Thomas**

**The Mystery of Godliness, p185**

It takes God to be a man! Man, that is, as God intended man to be! God created man to be inhabited by God for God! "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4). The light depended on the life! Once the life was removed, the light went out, for the one was the consequence of the other, and man was plunged into the abysmal darkness of his own spiritual bankruptcy!

What of the "image"? Without a cause there was not effect, and the attributes of godliness gave way to the anarchy of godlessness! "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: They are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Ps. 53:2-3).

That is why a spiritual regeneration or new birth – "renewing of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5c)- is absolutely imperative if man is to "put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, (Godlike) in true righteousness and holiness" (Eph 4:24)

**Ian Thomas**

**The Mystery of Godliness, p186**

There is a three-fold moral relationship – love for Him, dependence upon Him, and obedience to Him – that allows God to be God in action within a human soul.

This is the threefold moral relationship which Jesus Christ, for thirty-three years on earth, expressed toward His Father. His love for the Father demanded absolute, unquestioning dependence upon the Father and total obedience to the Father. That is why He said that without His Father, He could do

nothing (John 5:19,30) The true sinlessness of Jesus was His constant reliance on the Father, never falling back on Himself.

If you and I are to be functional, this same relationship that existed between Jesus Christ and His Father in heaven must also be the relationship between ourselves and the Lord Jesus.

None of us are essential to God, but He is essentially indispensable to each of us. God so engineered you and me that His presence is indispensable to our humanity, teaching our minds, controlling our emotions, directing our wills, and governing our behavior.

Your new birth puts God into action in you. It lets all of God loose, clothed with the redeemed humanity of your own flesh and blood as a forgiven sinner, so that at last you become a normal human being as Jesus was.

Ian Thomas

The Indwelling Life, p25,26

## **Blessing** – the gift of God; the life-giving, health-breathing impartation of God to the humble hearted

A blessing in the Old Testament denotes something outside and beyond the range of human ability to conjure and work up. It's God's power accomplishing that impossible thing which He promised; the backing of God to bring about a divine end; to cause to prosper, to make happy; It's a divine gift that flows out of faith and obedience. More specifically, to the Hebrew culture, it was synonymous with abundant living in the Land of Promise. The blessing was given Abraham, and every one who was of His lineage was welcome to its riches in the then-and-now and to the thrilling hope in the Messianic unfolding still to come.

### **Deeper Spiritual Meaning:**

The blessing of Abraham wasn't merely for a plot of land, for healthy crops, peace along the borders, and good health among the people – the blessing is Christ Himself, the Life of God imparted to those who believe, the Spirit of God poured out upon His people. Jesus is the land flowing with Milk and Honey, the place of abundance, health, spiritual riches, and eternal happiness. Esau rejected this blessing when He "despised his birthright" and Saul rejected this blessing when He rebelled against God's authority placing himself above His true King. The Blessing of Abraham is manifest in the person of Jesus Christ and is ultimately made into the perfect fulfillment of the Abrahamic blessing in the Spirit of God at Pentecost – He is God's gift, God's enabling grace, and God's merciful expression of love to a needy people. Choosing to be mastered by Jesus Christ is a choice to become a conduit of blessing. God desires to use the consecrated lives of His people to give Himself to a needy world about. As Christ's hands and feet, we become the "bearers of the gift of life", the "ambassadors of enabling grace", and "the merciful expression of His love to the needy".

And give thee the blessing of Abraham, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; that thou mayest inherit the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.

**Genesis 28:4**

## **The Necessary Choice**

Life or Death? Blessing or Cursing?

- Life – Death
- Blessing – Cursing
- Light – Darkness
- Spirit – Flesh
- Promise – Self-Effort

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

**Deuteronomy 30:19**

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:

**Isaiah 44:3**

And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

**Romans 15:29**

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

**Galatians 3:13-14**

## **The Components of Blessing**

Grace and Peace

- **Grace** - the enabling power of God to bring about a new rule, a new life, and a new creation within the life of men
- **Peace** - the cheerful calm and rest of heaven

### **The Abrahamic Blessing**

May the gracious enabling power of God be activated in your life and become your very life, and may the cheerful calm of this heavenly victory dawn upon your soul and fill your life with the buoyant blessing of inner placidity.

## **Peace** – shalom (Hebrew), eirene (Greek) –

the effects of a freed kingdom no longer beneath the thumb of the despot, the quiet and calm of a once battle-torn land rescued by a Benevolent Power; the silencing of fighting words in exchange for words of love and harmony

### **The Deeper Spiritual Meaning:**

The soul of man rescued and made cheerful and new. Peace in the New Testament has nothing to do with externals, but has everything to do with the inner life of a man saved by the heroic love and grace of Jesus Christ. Peace is the once enslaved and troubled soul made free, buoyant with gladness, and filled to overflowing with an unsinkable heavenly smile pressed upon the soul. Peace is an inner rest, a calm, an abiding in a new life and sustenance, an inward contentment, a cheerful stillness amidst the winds, waves, and blustery coldness of life. Jesus Christ brings us the Abrahamic blessing, which has two parts: the power of God to transform and enable, as well as the peace of God to calm and make our souls smile with gladness.

Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest;  
and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his  
name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness  
unto Israel in his days.

**1 Chronicles 22:9**

Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of  
that man is peace.

**Psalms 37:37**

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on  
thee: because he trusteth in thee.

**Isaiah 26:3**

And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this  
house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest  
upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

**Luke 10:5-6**

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you . . . Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you . . . And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

**John 20:19,21,26**

For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

**Romans 8:6**

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

**Romans 15:13**

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus . . . Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

**Philippians 4:7,9**

## **A CALMER OF STORMS**

Both of the storms at sea and the storms of the soul

He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

**Psalms 107:29**

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

**Mark 4:39**

## **And Peace**

Not just the power, but the cheerful calm, confidence, and quiet of God

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:3**

Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:2**

Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ,

**Galatians 1:3**

Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:2**

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Philippians 1:2**

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 1:2**

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Thessalonians 1:1**

**Calm** – demamah (Hebrew) galene (Greek) – stillness, silence, cheerful rest

**Deeper Spiritual Meaning -**

This word primarily signifies "calmness, cheerfulness" (from a root gal--, from which gelao, "to smile," is also derived; hence the "calm" of the sea, the smiling ocean being a favorite metaphor of the poets. But calm means something far more than mere calming of external elements like storms, winds, and waves – it denotes a calming of the inner storms, a quieting of an inner bluster, and a silencing of an inner tempest. Calm in the deeper sense is a smiling soul, a heart made cheerful by the intimate encounter with the Bridegroom, the blessed rest of the heart, a grace-shaped smile that proves the presence of Christ amidst the storm. A calmed soul is one grafted into the Life of the Vine, one conquered and rescued by the King of kings, and one lovingly made dependent upon the Chief Shepherd. All may be a bluster and a boil outside, but inside there is the crackle of the Fire of God in the hearth accompanied by the warmth and quieting presence of the Almighty Victor, Jesus Christ our Lord. To be calm is to be at rest in the King's Life.

## **The Hebrew Bondservant**

One of circumcised ears

If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing. . . and if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master . . . I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

**Exodus 21:1-6**

And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant:

**Matthew 20:27**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

**Romans 1:1**

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

**Romans 6:16**

But (Jesus) made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

**Philippians 2:7**

**Bondservant** – *doulos* (Greek) – a slave, a bondman, one given up to another's will.

**Deeper Spiritual Meaning** – One bonded to Christ out of love and affection. One enslaved to the awesome power of love, one given wholly to its mastery over heart, mind, soul, and strength. One set free from the chains and punishments of Sin by the Blood of Christ who has now returned, ravished with love, to pay his rescuer homage and worship. One wholly given to the Person of Christ as Lord, Master, King, Ruler, Bridegroom, and Friend. A Bond-servant is one of circumcised ears, pierced with the aul of the Spirit, eager and able to hear his Master's voice, and ready and attentive to His every command. In the New Testament, a bondservant's life is one owned and operated by the Spirit of Almighty God.

## **The Circumcised Ear**

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; so shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.

**Psalm 45:10-12**

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

**Isaiah 55:3**

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

**Jeremiah 6:10**

And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him.

**Luke 22:50-51**

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

**Revelation 1:1**

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

**Revelation 2:7**

He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

**Matthew 11:15**

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

**Matthew 13:9**

If any man have ears to hear, let him hear,

Mark 7:16

## **The Holy Recipe for Spiritual Listening**

Damam, Raphah, Chashah, Qavah, Chuwl, Perimeno, Apekdechomai, Prosedreuo, and Prosdechomai

- **Damam** - to be silent, still, wait upon the Most High, rest in His arms, be quieted by His grace

Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.

Psalm 4:4

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him:

Psalm 37:7a

My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.

Psalm 62:5

- **Raphah** – refrain from labor, be quiet, let go of your burden, sink down into His Almighty Life

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Psalm 46:10

- **Chashah** – to make calm, quiet, bring to peace and a cheerful state of rest

He makes the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still.

Psalm 107:29

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

Mark 4:39

- **Qavah** – to wait, to look for, to hope, expect, to wait to eagerly expect

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

**Psalm 25:5**

Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**Psalm 27:14**

Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land.

**Psalm 37:34**

I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

**Psalm 130:5**

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

**Isaiah 40:31**

The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.

**Lamentations 3:25**

Therefore turn thou to thy God: keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy God continually.

**Hosea 12:6**

- **ChuwI** – endure difficulties with longing, strength and hope

Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him.

**Psalm 37:7**

- **Perimeno** – to wait for

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

**Acts 1:4**

- **Apekdechomai** – to patiently and assiduously wait for

But if we hope for what we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

**Romans 8:25**

And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

**Romans 8:23**

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

**Romans 8:19**

So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**1Corinthians 1:7**

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

**Galatians 5:5**

- **Prosedreuo** – to sit near, to attend assiduously, to be in attendance upon, to not quit one's side

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

**1Corinthians 9:13**

- **Prosdechomai** – to give access to one's self, to admit, to accept (not reject) a thing offered, to expect the fulfillment of a promise

### **Anna and Simeon**

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb. And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the LORD, Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A

pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now let thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

**Luke 2:21-39**

Joseph of Arimathaea, an honorable counselor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

**Mark 15:43**

We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

**Titus 2:12-13**

Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he comes and knocks, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Luke 12:35-38

## **The Recipe in Summary**

**Damam**, Be silent, still, wait upon the Most High, rest in His arms, be quieted by His grace. **Raphah**, Refrain from labor, let go of your burden, sink down into His Almighty Life. **Chashah**, Be made calm by His Spirit and His Love. Accept the blessing of peace into your soul and let the Bridegroom paint a cheerful smile upon your heart. **Qavah**, Wait upon your Master's word, look for Him, hope in Him, and eagerly expect Him to be all He has promised you He will be. **ChuwI**, Endure life's difficulties with longing, strength and hope, and through it all **Perimeno and Apekdechomai**, patiently and assiduously wait for Him to prove His love, faithfulness, and goodness and ultimately demonstrate His glory unto this earth. **Prosedreuo**, Sit near Him, attend Him assiduously, and never quit His side. **Prosdechomai**, Give Him complete access to your life, admit Him into your most intimate chamber, accept all that He offers unto you, and never waver in your confidence that He is fully able to perform that which He has promised.

## **The Art of Abiding**

The Deepest expression of Love and Devotion

- **Abiding is the act of a Bond-servant** – one who has lovingly and trustingly placed His entire life at the disposal of His Master's whim and will.
- **Abiding is the act of Sabbath rest** – it is a giving up all of all self labor in order to receive the gracious work of God within one's very soul.

- **Abiding is the art of Stillness** – receiving the blessing of Abraham and entering into the cheerful, smiling calm of Christ’s life – ceasing from self-work and self-glory to allow the Spirit of God to be the Life, the vigor, and the impetus within your earthly body. Quieting the inner man’s voice so that the voice of One far greater can be heard.
  
- **Abiding is the art of Listening** - It is the consecration of the right ear of the Priest and the circumcision with the aul of the Spirit. It is the moment by moment communion with the King, attentively waiting for His whispers of love, His whispers of caution, and His whispers of command.
  
- **Abiding is the art of unbroken communion** – it’s meant to be constant, always, and without interruption. A praying without ceasing, a love without pause, a selflessness without intermittent spurts of selfishness, a listening ear that is always attuned, and a right thumb smeared with blood that is always prepared to act out the wish of the Master.
  
- **Abiding is the art of Obedience** – a bond-servant’s love is only proved genuine through his instant response and obedience to the command of the Master. For a branch to bear fruit, it must never hinder or attempt to stop the formation of fruit – and likewise, abiding in Christ, demands a constant and ready-yieldedness to His forward movement in our life no matter the difficulty it might bring.
  
- **Abiding is the ultimate act of love and devotion** – it is the purest form of adoration in that it absolutely trusts, absolutely yields, absolutely cherishes, and absolutely obeys. The Stilled and Silenced soul, like stilled and silenced waters, is the only soul capable of reflecting the glories of the heavenlies. The Stilled and Silenced soul is the only soul capable of hearing the whispers of God. And the Stilled and Silenced soul is the only one who will recognize the daily visitations of the Groom, for it is the only one ravished and moved by the Love of the Spirit.

## **What each of us must do**

### **We must wrestle for the Blessing of God**

Just as Jacob wrestled for the Blessing of God, we must wrestle for the fullness of God within. We must become serious about our need for spiritual help and even more serious about being overcome by the Life of God Almighty. We must wrestle until the blessing is ours, until the grace and peace of God have overtaken our soul and we are a hostage in the gracious and all-glorious will of God for our life. There is more to the Christian life, the Christian experience, than any of us have yet tasted,

and we should fear lest we should fall short of the fullness that God has for each of us. Let us be moved by a holy desire, a holy love, and a holy daring to enter into the Most Holy Place and forsake our lives for the kingdom and the glory of Jehovah God.

#### **We must remove everything from our life that hinders our Intimacy with God**

Just as Josiah rid the land of Israel of every pagan idol and tore down every high place that sought to exalt itself above Almighty God, so we must remove everything in our life that is stunting our forward progress, blurring our vision of God, and obstructing a constant communion with Him. Bad sleep habits, poor eating habits, undisciplined lifestyle behavior patterns, leisurely entertainments (such as magazines, books, movies, sports, television) that distract and cloud, friendships that pull away rather than push toward, work and/or ministry habits that consume the life rather than enhance it. We must allow God to put his finger upon the points in each of our lives for which we must arouse the zeal of Josiah and fight.

#### **We must begin the practice of stillness**

We must learn to be quiet in God's presence, silence all other voices, calm the inner waters of our soul, and simply enjoy Him, listen to Him, wait upon Him, and love Him with our gaze of worshipful admiration. Even if, in practice, this "stillness" time is challenging and truncated to begin with, we must train our soul to be still, to acclimate with quietness and calm, and to calibrate around the pace of heaven rather than the pace of this world. We must learn to be continually calmed within and truly abide in the Life of Christ. Yes, this is an "endless frontier" art that may never be mastered this side of heaven, but it is an art whose mastery should be desired and pursued with greater zest and energy than any other in this life. For this art is the foundation of all the other intimate arts with God.