

Doctrinal Studies

RESTING IN FAITH

1. RESTING IN FAITH (RIF) defined: RIF simply means a moment by moment reliance on the promises of God to meet every need and every circumstance of life (Heb 4:1-11). RIF is using what you have previously learned.
2. RIF is claiming God's promises and thinking God's thoughts. We will either be possessed by God's thinking or the thinking of Satan's evil world system, depending on our own moment-by-moment choices.
3. There are thousands of promises for the Christian:
 - Salvation promises: John 3:16; John 14:6; Rom 10:13
 - Eternity promises: 1 Pet 1:4, 5—"... *an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ...*" John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:4; 2 Cor. 5:8—"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."
 - Daily Promises: Heb 4:9—"There remains ... a Sabbath-rest for the people of God ..."

The One who made the promises is immutable, therefore He is always faithful to keep His word—Mal. 3:6, Lam. 3:21-24; Heb. 13:18.

The One who made the promises is omnipotent—He will be able to perform that which He has promised. In Rom. 4:21 Paul gives us the example of Abraham, who is described as "... *being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.*"

He is also omniscient and omnipresent and knows how we will react in any given circumstance—Deut. 31:8; Ps 139.

God is love. He did not withhold "... *his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*" (Rom. 8:32)

4. Promises are to be applied. We are to trust Him daily, believe, accept, have peace: John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you ...*" The word "peace" is the Greek word *eirēnē* (eirene). This same word is translated "rest" in Acts 9:31, and "quietness" in Acts 24:2. Other passages include Phil. 4:6, 7; Col. 3:15; and Gal. 5:22.
5. We are not to be afraid of anything in this life, yet Heb 4:1 tells us, "*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.*" The entire 4th chapter of Hebrews deals with the subject of RIF.
6. RIF produces a relaxed mental attitude (RMA) and the absence of mental attitude sins. In Isa 26:3, 4 we read, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee ... Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength.*" The word translated "peace" is the Hebrew word SHALOM, which literally means "prosperity." In Jehovah we have a solid rock.
7. The necessity of RTF:
 - In prayer—Matt. 21:22—"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Mark 11:24.
 - In fear (of danger or death)—Ps 56:3—"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

- In worry—1 Pet. 5:7—“ *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*”
 - In relationship to others—read in Matt 8:5-13 about the centurion whose servant Jesus healed because of the centurion’s faith.
8. RIF is related to the capacity for life (CFL) or life in the Echo Zone (ἔχω—echo—is the Greek word that means “to have and to hold,” and refers to the life of exploiting the promises of God). Ps. 37:4, 5—“*Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*” Faith in the soul of the believer makes the promises of God more real than the adversities of life.
9. RIF should be the normal activity of the believer-priest—1 Cor. 2:5; 2 Cor. 5:7—“*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*” Our faith should not be in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God.
10. RIF is related to the Grace System of Comprehension (GSC), Col. 2:6. Faith must always have an object. For the one seeking salvation it must be Christ. For the one seeking spiritual growth it must be the Word.