



CHRIST COMMISSION FELLOWSHIP

LOS ANGELES

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In His Presence: A Theology of Restedness

WORSHIP: Faithful by Chris Tomlin/ Deeply in Love by Hillsong/ I Give Myself Away/ Lord I Give You My Heart

WELCOME: Slum book

When we were younger, we would often fill out slum books/autograph books. One of the most common questions there is: What do I want to be when I grow up? What is my purpose in life?

WORD:

Intimacy with God is not some wishy washy, fairy tale. Intimacy with God must be deep, must be filled with the Spirit. This starts when we find restedness in God.

Three Key Perspectives:

1. *The deepest cry of the soul is for rest.*
 - rest meaning Shalom, the peace of God
 - Spiritual maturity does not happen overnight and there are no shortcuts.
 - When God empowers us with the Holy Spirit, we can overnight recognize His anointing in our life – that is spiritual gifting not spiritual maturity.
 - Spiritual maturity, spiritual growth, and spiritual depth takes time.
 - Jesus has invited us to “come and rest awhile” (Mark 6:31).
 - Christianity is not process that when you push the right buttons, you will immediately grow. It is only by the love of God that we find rest in Him.
 - The deepest cry of the soul is not physical rest and sleep but rather rest in the Lord.
2. *The deepest longing of the soul is for purpose.*
 - What stresses us is not the presence of work, but the absence of purpose.
 - Purposeless-ness makes even the most exciting work tedious and boring.
 - Do you know your purpose?
 - The only way to know our purpose is to know the calling of God, and then align to that calling.
 - Once you know your calling, you will find your purpose and you can walk through life with the joy of God.
 - Knowing your purpose is important because whatever happens in your life as long as your purpose is clear, this knowledge will guide you.
 - When we walk in the presence of the Lord, and then things happen to thwart our plans, we must remember that God is faithful and that everything happens for His purpose. Knowing this we will understand that there are no accidents or coincidences. This will remind us that God is in control and that He will always bring His purpose to pass.
3. *The greatest need of the soul is for re-alignment.*
 - Like a GPS, God will continue to guide us and lead us until we are aligned to Him.
 - Re-alignment also means repentance. This is the key to spiritual maturity.
 - We have to realize that when we re-align with God it is crucial that we get into His Word. If we are not willing to pay attention to His word, we are unable to grow in His presence.
 - There is no substitute for the Word of God as the foundation of our life. We must be able to find within us a passion for God’s word. To fall in love with God and His word.

This is the fundamental principle: Our resting in God is accomplished by re-aligning to God. You cannot be in the presence of God and not be aligned to His will, to His purpose and to His calling for your life.

In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus says “Come to Me, all ²⁹ who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. ³⁰ For My yoke is ³⁰ easy and My burden is light.”

- Jesus tells us the secret of restedness is in yoking.



What is a yoke? A **yoke** is a wooden beam, normally used between a pair animals to enable them to pull together on a load when working in pairs.

When Jesus says “take My yoke” He is telling us that when we are resting, we should be working by aligning ourselves to the word of God.

- The secret therefore of restedness is not relaxing, relating, or reflecting. . . the secret if resting is re-aligning.
- The picture being given is not Jesus is the farmer putting the yoke on us, rather it is God the Father who is the farmer and Jesus asks us to share in His yoke. He is saying “I will guide you, I will carry your burden. . . align with Me and together we will do the Father’s will”
- He gave us the perfect example: He died for us to show us that it is possible to do the Father’s will. He gave up His life for us so that we understand what alignment with the Father means. . . and He is saying “learn from Me.”
- The world’s yoke wears us out because it captures us in performance traps bringing us to bondage.
- God calls us to go beyond the performance trap . . . to live from the inside – out rather than from the outside – in.

What is the difference?

OUTSIDE – IN	INSIDE -OUT
Accomplishment	Authenticity
Competence first	Character first
Looking Good	Being Good
Superficial	Deep
Restlessness	Restedness
Success	Significance
Applause of Men	Approval of God

Discussion:

1. Knowing what your purpose is in life, how does it compare to what God's purpose in your life is? What is God calling you to do?
2. What are the performance traps? How easy is it to become trapped?
3. What are some things that I can do to live from the inside-out rather than from the outside-in?

WORKS: The Bet by Anton Chevek

When we are not aligned to the presence of God, we are in a bondage that is dark and deceitful. It is only when we come to His presence that we are freed from the lie of the evil one. We have to understand that life does not lie in the possession of things but rather in the purpose of God.

What are the 3 big lies of Satan?

1. That God is a mean, vindictive spoilsport.
2. That God really does not care what we do --- and probably does not know.
3. That if He does, it is His business to simply forgive us.

These lies are trying to tell us that it does not really make a difference how we live or what we believe in.

We are now given a choice: Will we rest in God’s truth or will we be caught in the lies?

As we close our series with Rev Edmond Chan, the most important question is being asked of us --- am I willing to entrust to God all of our heart, our life. . . and in all our ways acknowledge Him as Lord of our lives. Are we willing to surrender and commit to Him our treasures, our time and our talents? What is God calling you to do?

“Lord, I come before you today a sinner. I acknowledge that I need You in my life as I accept your gift of salvation. I entrust to you Lord my life --- my treasures, my time and my talents. I surrender them to you Lord in all humility and submission and I ask that You instill in my heart a desire to know you better, a determination to align my life to Your will and a passion to understand Your word. I ask Lord that you fill my heart with a longing to be constantly in Your presence. To find rest in You alone and to share Your yoke. Walk with me Father as I continue to journey in this life and find fulfillment in Your purpose and as I offer my life to You to give You honor and glory. All these in Jesus’ name.”