

Do we want to abide and rest in Jesus Christ... ²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest* ([Matthew 11:28-30](#))?

God tells us how... ¹⁵ *If ye love me, keep my commandments...* ²³ *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him* ([John 14:15, 23-24](#)).

We're commanded... ³⁶ *Master, which is the great commandment in the law?* ³⁷ *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.* ³⁸ *This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹ *And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.* ⁴⁰ *On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets* ([Matthew 22:36-40](#)).

How can we say we love God with all our heart... mind... soul... if we mix a little bit of...

- ecumenical activity ([see the essay... What's Love God to Do With It?](#))...
- engaging false prophets—prophets whose prophecies don't come true... visions and dreams not based on the Word of God billed as God's word...
- [mystical practices that we learn from ancient or modern mystics](#) (think... contemplative—centering prayer... meditative techniques of listening to what is said to an emptied mind)...
- New Age attitudes and practices...
- yoga... martial arts...
- drunk with wine... high on drugs...

into our life... ¹ *If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder,* ² *And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;* ³ *Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.* ⁴ *Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him...* ([Deuteronomy 13:1-5](#))?

To do this... are we not looking away from God for answers to our problems so we can find rest... peace? Is this not the definition of idolatry... that which Israel practiced at Mount Sinai with the golden calf? And, because Israel continued rejecting God's provision... they didn't enter into God's rest... ¹⁰ *Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.* ¹¹ *So I swore in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.* ¹² *Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God* ([Hebrews 3-4](#)).

We can travel the world for God... write spiritual books... form prayer circles... build prayer rooms... start prayer and prophetic schools... organize prayer walks... attend "signs and wonders" conferences... become involved with ecumenical movements in attempt to save the world... but... if we don't have the Love of God (charity)... we have nothing... ⁸ *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away...* ¹³ *And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity* ([1 Corinthians 13:8,13](#)).

We're either a disciple of Jesus Christ... or, of sin... satan... the world... the spirit of antichrist. Which one receives the reward... ⁴⁰ *He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.* ⁴¹ *He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that*

receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² *And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward* ([Matthew 10:32-42](#))?

Is... *only in the name of a disciple*... speaking to “charity” performed hand-in-hand... arms linked together... as one... with those that do not adhere to the doctrine of Jesus Christ as the High Priest over the House of God... fully God and fully man... seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven? How would the recipient of such “charity” know who we follow... who we’re a disciple of... if we also come in the name of the other jesuses the Catholics... the Mormons... the Jehovah’s Witnesses... the Muslims... the New Agers... etc. claim to represent? If we remain involved in such ecumenical movement, does that mean we’ll... *lose our reward from God*? Does this mean... [all “good works” performed aren’t necessarily charity](#)?

Is not the Love of God personified in the Holy Spirit... ⁷ *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind* ([2 Timothy 1:7](#))? If we’re fellowshiping with the enemies of God... *idols...idolatry*... do you think the Holy Spirit will be pleased? Does not *true peace... rest*... come through the Holy Spirit... ²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law* ([Galatians 5:22-24](#))?

If we engage the aforementioned practices hoping to find rest... peace... abiding in Christ... are we not severing the very thing we’re seeking... ³ *Israel hath cast off the thing that is good: the enemy shall pursue him.* ⁴ *They have set up kings, but not by me: they have made princes, and I knew it not: of their silver and their gold have they made them idols, that they may be cut off* ([Hosea 8:3-4](#))?

Maybe this is why people get deeper-and-deeper into the sin of idolatry—they can’t find the true peace of God through their “world peace plan”... ¹³ *But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.* ¹⁴ *Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch* ([Matthew 15:13-14](#)).

Maybe this is what drives the wealthy to name the building... street... museum... after them—they’re hoping it’ll be [a legacy](#)... ²⁶ *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* ²⁷ *For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works...*

¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth...* ²⁰ *But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?* ²¹ *So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God* ([Matthew 16:25-27; Luke 12:15-21](#)).

Maybe this is what drives the politician to come up with “the new program to save mankind”... ¹⁸ *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,* ¹⁹ *And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful...*

³³ *Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.* ³⁴ *And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares...* ([Mark 4:18-20; Luke 21:33-36](#)).

Maybe this is what drives many people to reach for the world's stage to do "great things" for God... even if it involves embracing the world... God's enemies... in attempt to succeed... ²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* ²³ *And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* ²⁴ *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock...* ([Matthew 7:22-24](#)).

Maybe this is what drives the harlot... the "gold digger"... to dress and act the way they do. They're only interested in the money hoping it'll bring them "life"... *the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words... a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart...* ¹⁶ *I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.* ¹⁷ *I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon...* ²⁷ *Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death...*

⁴ *And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication:* ⁵ *And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH...* ([Proverbs 7:5,10,16-17,27; Revelation 17:3-5](#)).

Their focus is on a man's desire for pleasure... not the man poor in spirit... ⁶ *This he [Judas] said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein...*

³ *For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies...*

⁴ *There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:* ¹⁵ *Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.* ¹⁶ *Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard...*

³ *Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.* ⁴ *The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth...*

³ *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven...* ([John 12:4-6; Revelation 18:2-4; Ecclesiastes 9:14-16; 7:3-4; Matthew 5:2-4](#)).

The rich man's pomp... politician's bread and circuses... spiritual guru's honey-soaked promises of bliss... harlot's overkill... expose their *fear of man* because they've rejected the *Spirit of the fear of the Lord*—the very Spirit which brings us God's *rest and peace*... ¹¹ *In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me...*

⁶ *The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?...* ([Psalm 56:11; 118:6](#)). They've traded genuine wealth for a cheap imitation... precious jewels for gaudy costume jewelry.

How God has handled idolatry... ¹¹ *Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also,*

and they have put it even among their own stuff. ¹² Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you. ¹³ Up, sanctify the people, and say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you...

¹⁷ And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) ¹⁸ Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; ¹⁹ And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: ²⁰ The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven ([Joshua 7:11-13](#); [Deuteronomy 29:17-20](#)). Instead of Israel's enemies fleeing before them [we are no longer a slave to sin... [Romans 6](#)]... Israel scattered before their enemies [sin has become our master... [Genesis 4:7](#)]... ⁷ The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways...

²⁵ The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth ([Deuteronomy 28:7,25](#)).

The practice of idolatry would be like... one would spend most weeknights in the beds of different people... then come home to their spouse on Sunday night proclaiming... *I abide in my house with my beloved spouse.* This is committing Spiritual and physical adultery—not exactly loving... God and neighbor. If you think I'm fluffing you... read the book of [Hosea](#).

And... it's sobering to think... ⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God ([1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#)).

What's our attitude towards our inheritance? Do we want it now? Will it perish... ¹⁸ And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. ²⁰ But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided...

²⁵ But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented...

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up... ([Luke 12:16-21](#); [16:20-26](#); [2 Peter 3:9-11](#))?

The prodigal son did... and, he destroyed it as he engaged the world—he was left eating with the pigs... ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on

a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living... ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him (NASB) ([Luke 15:11-16](#)).

Or... are we willing to wait patiently on the Father God for our inheritance... one that'll last forever... ³² Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth...

¹⁴ How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance...

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you... ([Luke 12:22-34](#); [Hebrews 9:14-15](#); [1 Peter 1:3-5](#))?

The prodigal son did come to his senses and returned to his father... who received... welcomed... restored him to his status as the father's son... to the wealth of his father... ¹⁷ But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!... ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate... ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'" (NASB) ([Luke 15:17-32](#)).

Do we want the *perishable inheritance* the world offers... or... the *imperishable inheritance* God offers through Jesus Christ... ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away ([1 Peter 5:3-5](#))?

It's obedience to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, that fills us with His Spirit... that we can *abide and rest* in Christ ([see the essay... Filler 'er Up](#)).

³ Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. ⁴ Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength...

⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars ([Isaiah 26:2-4](#); [2 Chronicles 16:9](#)).

I'm still learning... subject to correction... checkout the scriptures in context to verify for yourself.

All text reference scripture quoted or discussed is King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bold, colored lettering, brackets [my understanding of things right now... or possible cross-reference], and underline—mine.