

MEDITATE ON THIS His Rest is My Starting Point

By Bishop Daniel Felipe



Leadership Devotional

DIVINE STARTING POINT

“Before man ever engaged in any work, in any production, in any accomplishment, in any administrative duty, in any creature naming, before the first to do list man had an appointment to step back and soak in God’s wonderful creation.” - Daniel Felipe

***“Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy,
because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.”
Genesis 2:3***

If you ever had the opportunity to listen to an orchestra or an opera you were probably introduced to an overture. The overture is what starts the musical experience of the night. An overture is a musical piece that while it stands on its own, is part of the whole. The overture contains in itself all the musical tones, notes, and progression that will be explored and expanded later on throughout the musical storyline. I believe Genesis, in many ways, provides an overture for Scripture and the storyline of redemption. In the book of Genesis God provides an incredible number of tones, notes, and progression that come to play out throughout the entire storyline of the Bible, and our own personal storylines, becoming foundational principles for life. One of these principles introduced at the beginning of time is the principle of rest.

We often think of rest as a time that must come at the end of our period of work, almost as a reward for the the work that we have done. But that is not how we were introduced to the concept of rest. If you look closely at the account of creation you will notice an important detail that often goes unnoticed. Man was created on the sixth day and right after, on the seventh day God rested. This means that man was present for God’s first Sabbath day. Not only that but man’s first day of action as a living being was in the rest of God.

We rested first in order for us to be empowered to do. This inversion of events is relevant, because the order of these events does affect the final result of who we are and how we live. This inversion make rest a product of grace rather than a reward to effort. My identity must first be defined by my time of worship and contemplation in the presence of God. By spending time with God first I realize who I am, only then I am equipped to move forward to my “next day” and get things done. Resting in God must be the first fruits of our time. This beautiful biblical overture concept repeats itself in Jesus as we can only start our new life by coming to find rest in him. Furthermore, our work in the Kingdom of God begins when rest in Christ.

***“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28***

MOT - Leadership Principle

Often as leaders we are eager to get started and get things done. The concept of divine rest teaches us that spending time resting in God must come first. We must resist our urge to get going and make an intentional decision that before we start our never ending to do list, we will pause, we will step back, and we will look upwards before we look forward.

MOT - Ask & Evaluate

How am I resting first? How am I offering God my rest in Him as the first fruits of my time? What is often the first thing I do at the beginning of my day, week, or month? What changes must I make to rest first?

MOT - Take a Step

As I *Meditate On This* I realize that I must take steps towards _____

In order to accomplish this goal I make a personal commitment to _____

MOT - Prayer

Father grant me the boldness and the strength to rest in You first. Keep me from caving in to the pressures of expectations, deadlines and commitments. That your Holy Spirit may remind me each day that my success start before I get busy. My success starts when I enter your rest.

***“He who cannot rest, cannot work; he who cannot let go, cannot hold on;
he who cannot find footing, cannot go forward.”
Harry Emerson Fosdick***