

A watercolor illustration of winter foliage and ornaments. The background is a soft, light pink and blue wash. The foreground is decorated with various elements: green pine branches, blue and pink flowers, red berries, and a blue ornament with a white string. There are also some gold and blue circular accents scattered throughout.

Words for the
New Year

Rest, Reengage, Reconcile

What type of words are these?

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- Verbs
- Second person present active imperatives

What does it mean to rest?

*“Thus the heavens and the earth were finished,
and all the host of them. And on the seventh
day God finished his work that he had done, and
he rested on the seventh day from all his work
that he had done. So God blessed the seventh
day and made it holy, because on it God rested
from all his work that he had done in creation.”*

(Genesis 2:1-3)

What does it mean to rest?

Rest for humanity is located in two profound truths:

- God's availability and accessibility to us in relationship
- The good, beautiful, and life-giving order that God has established

What do we rest in?

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- We rest in God—in His love, His provision, His working.

What will be the results of our rest?

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- The experience God's *shalom*
- The cultivation of a non-anxious presence
- The bolstering of our connection with the living God who loves us

What do we choose to not rest?

What do we choose to not rest?

- We have unruly ambitions. Choosing to believe a lie, we embrace an idolatrous independency.

Psalm 127:1-2

1 Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

What do we choose to not rest?

- We have infantile anxieties. Struggling to trust God's care, we root and squall.

Psalm 131:1-3

1 O LORD, my heart is not lifted up. My eyes are not raised too high. I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me. 2 But I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother. Like a weaned child is my soul within me. 3 O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.

“Christianity does not begin with walking; it begins with sitting... For Christianity begins not with a big DO, but with a big DONE... The Christian life from start to finish is based upon this principle of utter dependence upon the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no limit to the grace God is willing to bestow upon us. He will give us everything, but we can receive none of it except as we rest in him.” (Watchman Nee)