

Avoiding the Martha syndrome and

"discovering what It is that Jesus is doing and doing it with Him"

It is this being with Jesus that will equip and make ready the bride for His return.

This is His work in this covenant in which we live, it is His work and his alone! and it is by grace alone.

I hope and pray that through this word we will understand clearly that through faith we are encouraged by God to enter into a peaceful rest with Him, where as individuals and as gathered members of the body of Christ we will always have the ability to discern our beneficial participation in what Christ Jesus is doing and be changed through the power of Gods grace. Christ is the person of grace. For we are not under law but under grace. Let's live under the full revelation of this truth and always encourage each other to do the same. It will benefit us all beyond comprehension!!!

From this place of rest we **"discover (discern) what It is that Jesus is doing and do it with Him"**. It's from this place we experience the unmeasurable amount of God's grace, for ourself and for one another, to help us in all our times of need.

I personally know of this powerful grace, having experienced it first hand, it has never failed me!

Some scriptural basis for our rest, how we enter into it, and it's graceful benefit.

Mary and Martha (work versus rest / Old versus New) Luke 10: 38-42

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard His *word*. But Martha was *cumbered* about much *servicing*, and came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve (*work!*) alone? Bid her therefore that she help me (*get to work!*). And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art *careful* and *troubled* about many things: But one thing is *needed*: and Mary hath *chosen* that *good part*, which shall not be *taken* away from her.

v39 <i>Word (logos)</i>	3056: something said, by implication a topic or a discourse
v40 <i>Cumbered</i>	4049: to drag all around, to distract
v38 <i>Servicing</i>	1248: attendance (a working servant)
v41 <i>Careful</i>	3309: be anxious about, a distraction
v41 <i>Troubled</i>	5189: stormy, as if smoky, <i>lack of discernment</i>
v42 <i>Needed</i>	5532: employment
v42 <i>Chosen</i>	1586: to select
v42 <i>Good</i>	18: benefit
v42 <i>Part</i>	3310: a portion, a share, a participation
v42 <i>Taken</i>	851: to remove

My amplified version based on the above Greek definitions

Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat (*resting*) at Jesus' feet, and heard *what He was saying*. But Martha, *dragging about* and *being a distraction* with much *work*, came to Him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to *work* alone? Bid her therefore that she *get to work*, help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art *anxious and a distraction*, and because if this *you are acting as a stormy foggy day, and lack discernment* about many things: But one thing *is being employed* and Mary hath *selected* that *beneficial portion of my participation*, which shall not be *removed* from her.

How often have we invited Jesus into our house and immediately gone to work trying to serve Him, clean it up, prepare it, make it acceptable to Him, and then afterwards felt like we missed something, something beneficial? In all honesty maybe we even felt a bit unsatisfied, unfulfilled, a lack of peace and maybe even a bit frustrated! We felt so assured that our sacrifices and our work would please Him and in return He would be obligated to give to us all that we so desired and needed. Well we see clearly in this story how the activity of work keeps us from receiving that which is beneficial to us. If and when we get the full revelation as the body of Christ that God has already “given” us all that He has, and therefore all that we “need” we will be blessed and live beyond comprehension. His work is finished, it is done, and He is under no obligation to give us anything beyond what He has already given. What He has given is His all in all! Like Martha we can tend to get into this “doing” attitude so that we can “get” it. It just doesn’t work that way in the New Covenant, never has, never will, and was never meant to. We already got all that we need. Like Mary, it’s just a matter of discerning and choosing the beneficial part, that is just simply sitting (resting) and participating with the house guest!

God clearly shows us the folly in this works’ way of thinking in **Romans 11:34-36** “**For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things To Him be the glory forever”. Amen.

Our only hope is to realize the worthlessness of our works and sacrifices and take on the mind that was in Mary. This is why this little story that Jesus told is so powerful. He certainly was foretelling of the way for us all, and it’s the only way. It is “**discovering what it is that Jesus is doing and doing it with Him**”

This story is a great example for us of the differences between the Old (Martha, Moses, works based) and New (Mary Jesus, faith based) Covenants. The story clearly demonstrates for us that if we continue in our works (Martha) it is not only a distraction to ourselves but also to those around us. It hinders us from discerning or choosing that which is the good beneficial part, which is the very thing we need. But unlike Martha, Mary was empowered by faith not to be concerned or distracted with work. She was able to enter into a attitude of rest, choose to be with the guest, and participate in what he was doing! We also see that this new attitude upsets the old attitude (see story of prodigal son, same idea). God has never meant for these two attitudes, mindsets, to be joined together or to even be in co-habitation. He says in Hebrews 13:10 “it is written that people of (faith, Mary) have an altar that those who serve the tabernacle (works, Martha) have no right to partake of”! Those who serve the tabernacle also received no benefit from their work. The two can never be together. That’s quite an amazing and powerful truth!

Let’s look again at our Mary, Martha story and dig some more helpful truth out of it.

But first let’s look at the two aspects of the word “word” used in scripture.

Word: Logos 3056; something said, by implication a topic a discourse already written (the scriptures as an example)

Word: Rehma 4487; a present now utterance, to speak or say, by way of God’s influence.

Hebrews 1:3and upholds all things by the (rehma) WORD of His power.

Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the (Rehma) word of Christ.

It is this Rehma word that is such an important part of our hope, it is the work of God. 1Cor. 14 says that the end of tongues is prophesy. Words spoken by God, fully understood and settled onto our hearts.

Sounds like this could be the lively work of grace, one to another.

What was it in this story that was being employed and why was it beneficial?

That which was being employed was Jesus and the word He spoke.

It was beneficial because it came from God, it is eternal and will never fade or be taken away!

Jesus also spoke a word to the Pharisees which shadows this same truth. **John: 5: 39-40** “You search (serve, work) the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that *testify* about Me; and you are unwilling to *come to Me* so that you may *have life*”.

By grace we are invited and enabled to come to Jesus where we rest in His finished work (Mary) and enjoy the life! The word *testify* here means to be *martyred*! Very interesting! The scriptures, which are pointing us to Jesus, are willing to be martyred (to die) in order that He, His (rehma) word, would have preeminence in all and over all, Amen! This is one of the most central truths and power of the new covenant. Mary’s lack of working enabled her to discern that which was important and beneficial! Being with Jesus is so easy, His finished work enables us to come and rest in His presence and to listen to His (rehma) word! This word is as much our lively benefit today and tomorrow as it was Mary’s and it can never be taken from us, it is alive and eternal! When heard it is written on the tablet our heart.

As we move on we will see from scripture that this work of God is in fact grace at work!!!!

Grace: 5485: The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.

This Grace saves us, it keeps us, and it gets us to we are going! It never leaves us! Nothing else can take it’s place. Its work was never meant to stop at our conversion, but like Martha we also can invite Jesus into our house and then tend to continue to work in order to serve and satisfy this quest, we all have been taught and have our list! We will soon see the reality and danger in this attitude!

All that is needed is what Mary discerned and choose to do. She took part in that was beneficial. She was enabled through faith and rest to discern and choose to **discover what It is that Jesus was doing and do it with Him!** Praise God that’s all I ever want to do, my heart and soul cry out for nothing else! I am so thankful that God has made the way to do this apart from trying to work our way into it. There is nothing we can do to earn ourselves into this place. Thank God, through faith we enter His graceful rest, and be with Him. It’s that simple and that easy.

So then where is this all powerful grace? Maybe it’s closer to us than we are to ourselves!

John 1: 14,16,17

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. **For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.** For the Law was given through Moses; **grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.**

Phil. 2:13 for it is **God** who is at work **in you**, both to will and to work for **His good pleasure.**

Luke 17:21 The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**

Gal: 2:20 It is **Christ** who lives in me.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this **treasure** in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of **God** and not from ourselves.

1 Peter 4:7-11 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the *manifold grace* of God.

It’s in the house! Praise God! And it’s here to stay!

This is the mystery of God revealed, Christ in us the hope of glory!

So let’s say that a good part of if not all of the beneficial work of this grace that dwells within us is experienced through the Rehma word of God, that which is being written on our hearts and then reflected in our lives.

This grace saves, keeps, and delivers us!

It saves us Romans 10:8-9 But what does it say? “THE (rehma) WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND

IN YOUR HEART”--that is, the (Rehema) word of faith which we are preaching, if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the (Rehema) word of Christ.

It keeps us Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It delivers us Philippians 1:6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

And now all three together from Eph 1: 5-10, praise God! This is my personal all-time favorite chapter in the scriptures.

Eph 1: 5-10

(Grace saves us) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

(Grace keeps us) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us.

(Grace delivers us) In all wisdom and insight He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. Amen!

Let s have one last look at our rest through faith and the resulting unlimited grace of God to help us in our weakness.

First a couple more contrasts of works versus faith and then Hebrews 4 showing us faith and grace working hand in hand.

John 6:28-29

Therefore they said to Him, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?”

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you *believe* in Him whom He has sent.”

Romans 4:1-8

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found?

For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.” Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who *does not work, but believes* in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness!

Now Hebrews 4: The believer's rest and power to overcome through grace and grace alone!

Therefore, let us fear if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it. For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard. For we who have believed enter that rest, just as He has said,

“AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH,
THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST,”

although His works were finished from the foundation of the world. For He has said somewhere concerning the seventh day: “AND GOD RESTED ON THE SEVENTH DAY FROM ALL HIS WORKS”; and again in this passage, “THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.”

Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, “Today,” saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before,

“TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.”

For if Joshua had given them rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. For the one who has entered His rest has himself also *rested from his works*, as God did from His. Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, so that no one will fall through following the same example of dis-

obedience. For the word (rehma) of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.

Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Where is this high priest Jesus? At the right hand of God.

Where is this throne: It is in the belly (house) of every believer, it's the treasure we carry in these earthen vessels, It is Christ who lives in us, it's Christ in us the hope of glory, it is the kingdom of God within us!

What is its power? It's power is grace. It is the person of grace (God Himself) and His divine activity in our lives, His influence upon our hearts, being reflected in our lives, always there to help us in time of need.

In what way have we been enabled to confidently draw near to this throne? From a place of rest, resulting from right faith. Heb. 4:10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also ***rested from his works***, as God did from His.

Therefore let us be diligent to enter that rest, and again, But to the one who ***does not work, but believes*** in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness!

Through His grace, our faith and the resulting rest in this righteousness, not our worthless works, allows us full access to this beneficial throne of grace!

Jeopardizing our grace based walk!

Could we jeopardize our ability to avail ourselves of this all powerful grace, and if so, how? If we are only able to draw on this powerful grace from a place of rest, not works, should we then give serious consideration that works could keep us from what God has freely given us to help? **YES**, and this is fully supported by what Paul had to say to the Galatians who had done this very thing!

Gal 5:1-4

It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace!

To finish up lets read 2 Corinthians chapter 3, it shows us again the difference between the old and new covenants of God and how together in this New Covenant we can have this wonderful grace changing us from His appearing to His appearing, from (glory to glory).

Ministers of a New Covenant

Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some, letters of commendation to you or from you? You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory? For if the ministry of condemnation has glory, much more does the ministry of righteousness abound in glory. For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it. For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains is in glory.

Therefore having such a hope, we use great boldness in our speech, and are not like Moses, who used to put a veil over his face so that the sons of Israel would not look intently at the end of what was fading away. But their minds were hardened; for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil remains unlifted, because it is removed in Christ. But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart; but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.** Amen!!!

So in conclusion through faith and faith alone we are able and encouraged to enter and remain in a place of continual rest. From this place of rest and only this place we are able to discern and take part with that which is being employed, that is "discovering what It is that Jesus is doing and do it with Him". This certainly is what Mary did, it was the better part, it was beneficial, and it was permanent. We would discern that this is the "body of Christ" it's where our life comes from. Lets just refresh ourselves with a few key scriptures one again.

1 Peter 4:7-11 As *every man* hath received the gift, even so *minister the same one to another*, as good stewards of the *manifold grace* of God.

John 1: 14,16,17 And the *Word* became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, *full of grace* and truth. **For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace.** For the Law was given through Moses; **grace** and truth were realized **through Jesus Christ.**

Phil. 2:13 for it is **God** who is at work **in you**, both to will and to work for **His good pleasure.**

Luke 17:21 The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**

Gal: 2:20 It is **Christ** who lives in me.

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this **treasure** in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of **God** and *not from ourselves.*

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

How exciting it is for us to know that in the liberty of Christ we are enabled to have fully unveiled hearts, minds, and faces to participate in the only good beneficial part that we have. In this way only are we changed, from His appearing to His appearing this is the lively activity of grace not law. This is the way, the only way, this is the Mystery of God revealed and the fellowship of that mystery. This is the essence of the new covenant and the church. Lets employ it together, please, so that we'll reap it's full benefit. I need it, we all need it. Do we dare?

I will finish with 2 more scriptural examples spoken about this matter. (emphasis is mine)

God set the rules as we have seen:Romans 11:34-36 FOR WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things, To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

So much for our works' ways, and anything that we might think that we can do for Him or might have to give to Him. This is the exactly the Martha head set and it's end is a hopeless life of work! But thanks be to God, from the above study we see the way that He has made, the way for us to live with and benefit from that which comes, from Him, through Him, and back to Him. You may ask a real good question "how do we give back to Him if not by way of our works and or sacrifices"? We just read how, in 2 Cor. chapter 3. It is with unveiled hearts and faces that together we give back to God by giving what we each have received back to one another. Does the fullness of Him dwell in each one of us? Yes. **But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.** This is the fellowship of the mystery. This is New testament fellowship. We now don't need to keep looking upwards for God, crying out to see Him. We are not like the Israelis. He is here, He has come back, we just fail to see him because of the veil that lies over many of our hearts and minds. He is as close to us as we are to one another. It's that simple and His participation in us is that which is being employed, it is all that is needed, and it is his work that is acceptable, for Christ is the only acceptable sacrifice! It is the

beneficial part and the part that can never be taken away! Praise be to God and His abounding grace. He died for us in order that we could live.

Why? So that as living temples (sacrifices) this wonderful gift of grace (Christ) can be manifest once again in the earth, to be a testimony to the wonderful grace of God and a benefit to us all. This is new testament church! Lets live it to it's fullest. It's what Paul speaks of in **Ephesians 3:8-9** To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the **fellowship of the mystery**, which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; AMEN!

Let's look at our last example, again we see Martha and Mary shadowed.

Colossians 2: 1-17 You Are Built Up in Christ

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and attaining to all the **wealth** that comes from the **full assurance of understanding**, resulting in a **true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself**, in whom are hidden all the **treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the **stability of your faith in Christ**. Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly **rooted** and now being **built up** in Him and **established** in your **faith**, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude. **See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ**. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and **in Him you have been made complete**, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **He made you alive together with Him**, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the **certificate of debt** consisting of decrees against us, which was **hostile to us**; and He has **taken it out of the way**, having **nailed it to the cross (this is the law)**.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; **but the substance belongs to Christ**. Or a better translation (**the substance belongs to and is the body of Christ**) that's us!

So..... please, let's encourage each other daily in our hope and faith by which we are enabled to enter and remain in this wonderful graceful rest, free from work. And from this rest like Mary we are able to discern the better part, what Christ is doing, freely participate with Him, resulting in a permanent benefit from our participation. This is all He wants and this this is all we need!

In His love
Robert Couch