

Petersfield and Liss URC

'In Touch'



Sunday 25th April 2021

Hello and Welcome!



In Harness with Jesus

You will find rest for your souls
Matthew 11:29 NIV

One of the greatest promises Jesus ever gave us was: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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" (Mt 11:28-29 NIV).

How could Jesus talk about being yoked in a harness, which suggests hard work, and about rest in the same breath? To most of us, rest means kicking back in the recliner. That's not the kind of rest Jesus was thinking about.

A yoke is a harness that goes around the necks of two oxen so they can pull a load. Accepting Jesus' yoke is a picture of *submission*. It's also a picture of *help*, because you're not pulling the load alone. In each team of oxen, one is the leader and the other follows. Jesus will take the lead, but you must be yoked to Him to get the benefit. So, to enjoy intimacy with Christ, you have to bow before Him and accept His will.

Jesus promises that His yoke won't choke you, it won't be wearisome or confining; you won't chafe under it. In fact, the irony is, if you want to be truly free you must allow yourself to be yoked to Jesus by submitting your will to His.

Now it's possible to accept Christ's yoke, then start pulling against it when life doesn't go the way you want it to. Peace and rest come only when you relax in the yoke, and let Christ lead the way.

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If you are in need of any assistance during this time, we are more than happy to help out, whether you need some items of shopping or just a chat, please do call one of us on the numbers listed below.

Josh – 01720 263433, Carol – 01730 893489, Esmé – 01730 266636



PRAYER

Ever Loving God, I waken with immediate thanks for safe-keeping throughout the night. I rejoice in my earth-family relationships, and in the love of countless others who have enriched me through the years. Save me, I pray, from ever taking these gracious things for granted. Quicken my capacity to love Thee today, and to love all with whom I share its hours of work and leisure. Especially do I pray for those who can find no work to do-despite all their seeking.

I rejoice in the light, and warmth of the sun, constant in its rising; and in the cheerful colours of grass and gardens. I respond with surprise to many new experiences, as they come. I marvel at the trustfulness of animal pets; and the lively plumage and songs of birds. I give Thee thanks for great trees, with their tall shapes against the skies, and for their welcoming shade. Our need is to know, deeply, continually and sincerely, that people matter more than property; that the experience of giving often outmatches the joy of receiving.

So would I live, in the Service and Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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Still learning how to be still

““He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God.’” Psalm 46:10a (NIV)

Here’s the truth: The word still — as in “don’t move” — is not in my vocabulary. Stand still? Sit still? Lie still? Nope. I shift from foot to foot or wriggle in my chair or flip back and forth in bed every two minutes, searching for a more comfortable position.

So when God says, “Be still,” I know I’m in trouble. The words may sound soothing, but in Scripture they’re a gentle but firm reproof. “Calm down” (CEV), He says. “That’s enough!” (CEB). At the time these words were written, God was speaking very pointedly to His battle-prone people. “Stop fighting” (ERV), He told them, “cease striving” (NASB) and “desist” (YLT). It’s clear that in our own daily battles we’re to lay down our weapons and trust God for the victory, believing it will come in His perfect timing and according to His flawless plan. In the meantime, He tells us to rest in Him and “let go of your concerns!” (GW)

We nod in agreement even as we hang on to those concerns with both hands. If we don’t fret over our children’s future, who will? If we don’t worry about our parents’ health, who will? If we don’t agonize over life’s disappointments, big and small, who will?

***He will. That’s what God wants us to understand.
Only when we stop moving and stop striving can we recognize the truth about God: He is in control.***

No matter how crazy our world gets — and it’s definitely getting crazier by the minute — God is still in His heaven, and His good and perfect will is certain to prevail.

When our verse continues, “know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10a), He’s reminding us who He is and what He can do. The creator of all things — including all humanity — knows how to calm our hearts, ease our minds and guide our lives in the right direction. In the meantime, our calling is simple. Be still. Believe. Be ready.

Does this mean in our day-to-day lives we should take our hands off the wheel, kick back, take a nap, trust God? Not quite. Our hands must stay on the wheel, at the computer, in the laundry basket. Wherever our day finds us, we need to be fully engaged. But when worries come, we can lift them up to God. When adversaries appear, we can let God handle them. For God to change how we live, He first must change how we think.

Step one? Be still.

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<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2016/10/19/still-learning-how-to-be-still>

Be Still (Psalm 46:10)

"BE STILL..."

BE STILL your anxious thoughts of mind;
BE STILL when answers you fail to find.
BE STILL impatient, questioning heart,
For I've held the answers from the start.

"Be still and KNOW..."

KNOW that every need I will provide;
KNOW that I will never leave your side.
KNOW that your times are in My hands,
As in your life I work to fulfill My plans.

"Be still and know that I AM..."

I AM He who sees your every tear;
I AM He who calms your deepest fear.
I AM He who gives peace within life's storms,
While those tempests I use to strengthen and form.

"Be still and know that I am GOD..."

GOD, who sent My only Son;
GOD Almighty, Omniscient One.
GOD, who loved you enough to die,
So trust Me, my child; stop asking why.

"BE STILL and KNOW that I AM GOD."

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