



# The Harvest

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## Resting

Start today’s devotion by reading *2 Samuel 7*. Jot down some of your thoughts below:

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Like we talked about in the last devotion, God is a God of movement. He moves on behalf of His people, and He calls us into a movement that draws us closer to Him and inspires us to live for Him. There’s another – seemingly opposing – characteristic of the Lord our God. He is the God of rest. Not only does He create life and abundance. He also rests. *“So the heavens and the earth were completed along with their entire array. God completed – on the seventh day – His work that He made, and He ceased – on the seventh day – from all His work that He made. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, for on it He ceased from all His work that God created for the purpose of preparing” (Genesis 2:1-3)*. There are couple interesting aspects to note about this passage. First, God started by creating. He began with life. And then He took a break. He made something beautiful, and afterwards, He rested. **Resting isn’t resting without having worked first.** Herein lies the difference between stagnation and rest that we talked about two weeks ago. If we’re resting without moving, we aren’t really resting at all: we aren’t moving forward so we have nothing to take a break from in the first place. Stagnation is when we haven’t moved towards the Lord at all, when we haven’t spent time with Him, when we haven’t pursued Him, when we’ve ignored His calling on our lives.

**Resting is pursuing the Lord from a place of unhurried peace.** Even in our rest, we draw closer to the Lord. We rest every Shabbat when we go to church, seek the joy of community with other believers, and hear the word of the Lord proclaimed. The rest fills our hearts with joy, peace, and hope. This is a good way of distinguishing rest from stagnation. When we’re stagnant, we don’t typically feel the presence of the Lord. But when we rest in Him, we know His presence exists in every space – in our productivity and in our quiet time with the Lord.

Pause: How have you been pursuing a state of rest in the Lord lately?

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Rest isn't just a nice thing to do when we feel like it. As we know, the Shabbat is commanded. And Scripture shows us what happens when we don't accept the rest that God offers. This brings us back to our passage in *2 Samuel 7*. God Himself gave King David rest. He removed all of David's enemies. He calmed the storm that had been David's norm for a long while. He brought peace into the land. And what does King David want to do? Move. Immediately, in a moment that could have been an intimate time between himself and the Lord, David jumped to the next thing. He wanted to build a house for the Lord. The desire on his heart was beautiful – to create a dwelling place for the Lord. However, that was not the Lord's heart for King David. God wanted to bless King David with rest. He wanted to pour out blessings on his servant. He promised David peace in the land, prosperity in his own kingship, and a longevity of his lineage that would last from generation to generation. God was not looking for David to build Him a temple. God offered David rest. David, ever the faithful warrior, wanted to move onto the next accomplishment he could perform for his Lord. However, realizing that the Lord had something even better for him, look what he did next: *"The King David went in and sat before Adonai and said, 'Who am I, my Lord, Adonai, and what is my family, that You have brought me this far?'" (2 Samuel 7:18)*. King David then spent time worshipping the Lord as he rested with Him. And the Lord was faithful to pour out every blessing He had promised.

God is looking for the same response from us. When He offers us rest, we should be eager to run to the presence of the Father and **just sit**. In the call to rest, there is a promise – we will not leave emptyhanded. God has something for each of us when He calls us to rest in Him. The Father reveals Himself as One who rests and tells us to do the same. My encouragement to you today is to respond to the call. Carve out some time today spend peaceful, quiet time with the Lord. Don't allow yourself to be distracted, and don't get caught up in the temptation to check off a well-meaning to-do list. Just sit with the Father. He has blessing on blessing here for you as you rest in His presence.

Worship:

- ~ Nothing Else by Cody Carnes
- ~ Peace be Still by Lauren Daigle
- ~ Be Still My Soul by Pat Barrett

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