

曉林家書 (1) - 12/11/2021

從 1212 到 0101

21 天竭力進入安息

家人們!

雖然風雨莫測，但是，2022 年對神的子民來說，將是一個神聖的安息年!

這一段日子，主帶領我們操練讚美的生命，經歷在一切環境之上祂的同在。但是，讚美只是進入神的殿門（詩篇 100），主的心還不滿足，祂盼望我們能更深地與祂親密聯合，特別在歲末年初這個關鍵的時候，是祂賜下聖靈的新酒新油，釋放祂在新季節的策略、洞見和方向的時候。

兩週以來，每當我來到主面前，總是聽到“竭力進入安息”。今天當跟著錫安每日讀經進度，正好讀到“我們務必竭力進入那安息”（來 4:11），靈裡更清晰這是主的心意。單單希伯來書三、四兩章就有十次提到安息（“歇了”原文也是同詞）。有個英文譯本翻為“Let us therefore strive to enter that rest”（ESV），就是激勵我們要使勁用力進入神的安息！真是有點矛盾，要安息，還要使勁！想到此，我彷彿看到一個挺好笑的圖畫：一個人在外面忙碌，停不下來，就有人用大力把他抓住，拖進房間，甚至綁在椅子上，命令他：“好好安息吧！”這個圖畫真是有點誇張，但是，這真是這個季節天父迫切的心意。祂巴不得派天使把我們一個一個拉進內室，因為祂對祂所愛的每一個孩子，都有話要說！

新約第一次出現“安息”這個詞，就是使徒 7:49 中司提反引用賽 66:1 的著名經文：“天是我的座位，地是我的腳凳，。。。哪裏是我安息的地方呢？”原文的安息<原文編號 2663>有兩層的意思，一是指狀態：靜止安息，二是指場所：安歇的地方；安息是神最自然的狀態：我們的神是在自己裡面得享平安的神！從創世紀開始，其實神就用六天給人類最豐滿、最美麗、最溫情的創造，預備我們和祂一起進入那歇了一切的工的榮耀的安息中。祂原先渴望我們一被造，就此進入祂所賜的“第七天”的安息裡（來 4:4）。安息代表信靠（來 4:3），當年的亞當夏娃就是沒有完全信任神的良善，就失去了安息的源頭：神的同在，也失去了安息的地方：伊甸園。聖靈繼續提醒我，從 12 月 12 日到 2022 年 1 月 1 日，正好 21 天！12 代表神的掌權和次序，當我們進入對神的主權完全的信靠，就能進入徹底的安息，那就是進入新年的鑰匙！當我們的心安息，神就能在我們裡面找到安息之所（賽 66:1-2，使徒 7:49）！

天父的心何等迫切，要我們能享受祂一直為神的子民存留的安息（來 4:9）。這安息的應許是多麼寶貴，特別在這動亂不安的末世，那不只是一個日子，而是一個生命的狀態，一個和我們的創造主一樣的狀態：安息的生命狀態。

我們才發現，對大多數人，讓我們暫且放下自己的工作，不做什麼其實比要做什麼，要難得多！真是要“竭力”進入那安息呀！我們實在要除去“勞碌命”的咒詛，進入屬天安息的命定！

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## **Letters from Home by Joy (1) - 12/11/2021**

**From 1212 to 0101**

**21 days - Let us make every effort to enter into rest**

Dear Family!

Despite the unpredictable storm in life, 2022 will be a holy year of rest for the people of God!

During this time, the Lord is leading us to practice a life of praise and experience His presence over all circumstances. But praise is not enough to enter His courts (Psalm 100). He desires a deeper and more intimate union with Him, especially at this critical time at the end of the year when He is giving the new wine and oil of the Holy Spirit, a time to unleash His strategy, insight and direction for the new season!

For two weeks now, whenever I come to the Lord, I keep hearing Him say, "Make every effort to enter into rest". Today, as I followed Zion's daily Bible reading schedule, I came to the words, "Let us make every effort to enter into that rest" (Heb. 4:11), and it became clearer in my spirit that this was the Lord's intention. There are ten references to rest (the same word is used for "rested") in Hebrews 3 and 4 alone. The original word for "rest" is "His rest", not man's rest. One English translation reads, "Let us therefore strive to enter that rest" (ESV). "Strive" means to encourage us to "make a strong effort to". It's a bit of a paradox: to enter into rest takes effort! As I pondered this, I saw a funny picture of a man who was too busy to stop, then someone grabbed and dragged him into a room, even tied him to a chair, and commanded him to "rest well"! This picture is a bit exaggerated, but it is really Father's urgent desire for this season. He can't wait to send an angel to drag us into the room one by one, because He has something to say to each of His beloved children!

The first time the word "rest" appears in the New Testament is in Acts 7:49 when Stephen quotes the famous verse from Isaiah 66:1: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is my resting place?" The original word "rest" (No. 2663) has two meanings, one is the state: resting in peace, and the other is the place: a place of rest. Rest is the most natural state of God: our God is the God who enjoys peace in Himself!

From the beginning of creation, God actually gave mankind six days of the richest, most beautiful and tender creation, preparing us to enter with Him into the glorious day that He rested from all His works. His original intent was for us to enter into His "seventh day" of rest as soon as we were created (Heb. 4:4). Rest represents trust (Heb. 4:3), and it was Adam and Eve who lost the source of their rest: the presence of God and the place of rest, the Garden of Eden, when they did not fully trust in the goodness of God.

The Holy Spirit continues to remind me that from December 12, 2021 to January 1, 2022, is exactly 21 days! 12 represents God's reign and order, and as we enter into complete trust in God's sovereignty, we can enter into complete rest, and that is the key to the New Year! When our hearts rest, God can find rest in us (Isa. 66:1, Acts 7:49)!

How urgent is the Father's heart that we may enjoy the rest He has always reserved for God's people (Heb. 4:9). How precious is this promise of rest, especially in these troubled last days, it is not a kind of day, but a state of life, like that of our Creator: a state of life in rest.

On the one hand, we often cry, "I'm tired! I want to take a vacation!" But when we take it seriously, to take a break from work, we realize that, for most people, it is much harder to "do nothing" than to "do something"! It really takes "all our effort" to enter "that rest". Lord, help us! Take away the curse of the "life of toil" that we may enter into the destiny of heavenly rest.