

The Seven Last Words of Christ: part 7 of 7

Luke 23:44-49 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “**Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.**” Having said this, He breathed His last. ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began praising God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent.” ⁴⁸ And all the crowds who came together for this spectacle, when they observed what had happened, began to return, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

Introduction

Tonight, I am finishing up my sermon series on the seven last words of Jesus on the cross. I would like to thank all of you for support, prayers, and words of encouragement in the past seven weeks. I have been truly blessed with the wisdom and insights from those seven words of Jesus that are relevant in my life. I hope it has been the case with you as well.

So, let’s think about the last of the last seven words of Christ: “**Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.**” Once again, this verse is a direct quote of Psalm 31:5, David’s prayer to God. By saying it, Jesus fulfilled another prophecy on the Messiah. I will walk you through the verse 46, word by word, in three parts: Father, Into Your Hands, I commit My spirit.

Content

Father (v. 46): Please note here that Jesus calls the Almighty God “Father.” In a very affectionate and powerful way: “Father!” Last Sunday, I spoke extensively about us becoming God’s adopted children by believing in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. We were hostile to God and strangers to God before we came to know Christ, but through Christ’s atonement, peace was restored between God and us, and through our faith in Him, we have become God’s children. Now God is our heavenly Father, and we are His children. God is the King of the heavens and the earth, and we are princes and princesses in His Kingdom. It is our privilege to call our God in Heaven “Father.” Every time you call upon His name, don’t hesitate to call Him, “Father.” Whenever you do, it will get His attention. He delights in you each time you call Him “Father.”

Now, it is important to realize who our Father is. Who is He?

He is the Creator, the Owner, and the Sustainer of the entire universe and every living being in it. He is also the Protector. He is the One and the Only One trustworthy enough to whom we can commit our spirit. No one else in the world is worthy to commit our spirits to. Only God is. Only He is capable. He alone is secure. He alone is faithful.

INTO YOUR HANDS (v. 46): Let's think about 'hands' for a while. We are not talking about any ordinary human hands here. Rather, God's hands that are mighty, the divine hands that created heavens and the earth and all the creatures in them. Psalm 102:25 declares "... You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of **Your hands.**"

With the same hands, the Scripture says, God **fashioned/formed us** in His image and likeness (Psalm 119:73): "**Thy hands** have made me and fashioned me." E.g. God is the Potter. You are the clay. Potter created a masterpiece. That's you.

It is also His mighty hands that **deliver** us from any troubles (Isaiah 50:2): "*Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom? Or have I no power to deliver?*" Have no doubt in God's power here!

With the same hands, God **upholds** us (Isaiah 41:10): "*Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will **strengthen** you, surely I will **help** you, Surely I will **uphold** you with My righteous right hand.*" Once we are in God's hands, no one can snatch us from His hands (cf. Hosea 2:10). In such strong hands of God are we. Jesus committed His spirit into such mighty hands. So should we.

I COMMIT MY SPIRIT (v. 46). What's that mean 'to commit' here? There are three definitions in the dictionary: **to carry out or perpetrate, to pledge, or to entrust.** Here in Jesus' word, it means, 'to entrust,' or 'to put into care and protection.' E.g., For your financial portfolio, you would rely on the best financial advisor to protect and grow them, right? For your physical health, you would look for the best doctor available, too. How much more, then, we want the best candidate to take care of our spirits?

By the way, spirit is the most important part of our being: it is more important than body and soul, and far more important than money. Therefore, our spirit deserves the best caretaker of all, who is God.

Let me tell **three reasons** why God is the most qualified caretaker, in fact, one and the only one, to whom we can commit our spirit: First, because He is **true and faithful.** *You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth* (Psalm 31:5 b). He is the God of truth. He doesn't change. His faithfulness endures forever.

Next, He **delivers** us from any harm. He rescues us from any troubles. He is our Protector. He is our Helper. We can count on Him in any situation.

Lastly, He **secures** us—no one can snatch us from His hands.

Therefore, it would be foolish of us not to commit our spirit into God's hands when we know how mighty and secure He is: He is far wiser and more faithful than any humans and far stronger than we are.

The Scripture commands us to commit into God's hands, not only our spirit, but also ourselves, our ways, and our works: our entire life and every aspect of it, temporal and eternal. That's what Jesus did: all the time, all the way, and throughout His life. Once we entrust our spirit into God's hands, He will spare no attention to our spirit and provide the best protection and security for eternity (דָּרַגַּת--'to attend to, give heed/attention, provide' in Psalm 31:5).

Conclusion

Recap: Let us **Commit** ourselves to the Lord, **commit** our works to the Lord, **commit** our ways to the Lord--all of them share the same Hebrew word which means to 'roll' or 'roll away.' E.g. It reminds me of bowling: **roll** the ball.

Psalm 22:8 "**Commit** (גָּלַל: ROLL, ROLL AWAY) yourself to the Lord; let Him **deliver** him; Let Him **rescue** him, because He **delights** in him."

Psalm 37:5 **Commit** (גָּלַל: ROLL, ROLL AWAY) your way to the Lord, **Trust** also in Him, and He **will do** it.

Proverbs 16:3 **Commit** (גָּלַל: ROLL, ROLL AWAY) your works to the Lord, and your plans will be established.

ROLL YOUR WORRIES TO THE LORD. ROLL YOUR CARES TO THE LORD. ROLL YOURSELF TO THE LORD. ROLL YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD. ROLL YOUR WORKS TO THE LORD. ROLL YOUR WAY TO THE LORD. ROLL YOUR SPIRIT INTO GOD'S MIGHTY HANDS, THEN YOU'LL BE SECURE.

LET US PRAY.

Prayer: Father, into Your mighty hands, we commit our lives, our ways, our works, even our body, soul, and mind, and ultimately our spirit. Our times are in Your hands. So are we. Our entire life. Protect us, deliver us, keep us in Your mighty hands forever. Into Your hands, we commit ourselves tonight.

In Christ's name, Amen.