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THE YOKE

Sometimes the burdens of life with its trials, temptations, challenges, and all sorts of problems become rather difficult to deal with. Jesus tells us how to handle it.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NKJV) says, ***“Come to Me, all you who labor (works hard at it) and are heavy laden (loaded down) and I will give you rest (relief). Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest (peace, relief) for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”***

What is a yoke? No, it is not the yellow part of an egg of which we speak. It is something that binds two of something together so that they act together as one.

A yoke is a wooden frame that fastens two oxen or horses together so that they can pull a load equally. It does not work well if one pulls stronger than the other. It requires a mutual effort and commitment.

There are many other illustrations of a yoke, but the key is that it is “something” that binds together two as if it (or they) were one.

Jesus is telling us that if we will allow ourselves to be yoked together with Him, our “load” in life will be much easier to bear. Heavy burdens (loads) will become lighter, easier to manage, because His strength is now coupled together (yoked) with you.

This does not mean that you trust Him to pull the load Himself alone. You must do your equal part. But what exactly is that part? How do you “pull” your share of the load?

It is by putting absolute faith in the Word. Absolute faith contains no wavering, nor doubting, nor mere “hoping.” It means you totally, completely, and unequivocally trust the Word.

The Word? Yes, two-fold. The written Word (Holy bible) is a permanently recorded word of God upon which you can stand. Believe it and speak it. But you must know it since you cannot claim something you know nothing or only a little bit about.

The Living Word is Jesus Himself (John 1:1-5, 14). By the Holy Spirit, He who is the Word Himself indwells us. We must fully trust Him. Trust and faith are how we pull our part of the load. Obedience to Him is essential. If we truly “trust and obey” then equally together the load, the burdens, and issues of life, will be much lighter to bear.

His “rest” will not tire you or wear you out. The danger is when you begin to “worry” about it or try to “figure it out” yourself. You must simply in faith trust Him and then obey, in whatever it is that Holy Spirit puts into your heart and mind from the Word.

Do Not struggle. Trust. Obey. Then you and the Living Word, Jesus, are pulling together, yoked.