

# RESURRECTION

## HE HAS RISEN!

(Mark 16:6)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

(John 11:25, 26)

*Victory!* The mission of Jesus Christ here on earth was accomplished. Sins were forgiven—taken away—and His life was restored. Death was defeated. What a joy!

Jesus is now imparting His very life to those who call upon His name (Romans 10:13). It is for the joy, in anticipation of this moment, that Jesus endured the Cross (Hebrews 12:2). He had to go through this terrible ordeal in order for us to be saved, for man's problem is not just that he is a sinner in need of forgiveness, but he is dead and in need of life. (Read chapters "Forgiveness" and "Eternal life.")

Before I became a Christian, I didn't see myself dead (in spiritual sense), even though I knew I was missing something. I just couldn't put my finger on it. After I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior, I realized that something had happened. I had passed from death to life, from darkness to light, from the domain of Satan into the kingdom of God. To me, even the trees were greener and the sky bluer. The difference between the light and the darkness began to be more and more visible. I am sure that everyone has a different experience. I am excitable person, and I was excited. I felt alive. *I am alive!* I feel an incredible joy—I am indwelt by God, who created the universe. That is exactly what happened after I responded to Christ's invitation: "Come to me for life."

At the time of my conversion I had been reading the Bible for about seven months, and I knew I wanted Jesus in my life. He became my personal Lord and Savior. I have entered into a relationship with Him.

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

(Colossians 1:27)

And what a life it is! I call it the "Incredible Journey with Jesus." I am born again, born of God, born of the Spirit.

Jesus came to give us life—abundant life (John 10:10). He wants to live His life in us and through us. Grasping this truth was definitely the turning point in my Christian walk. According to the Scriptures, my work was done at the time I received Jesus.

They said therefore to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

(John 6:28, 29)

For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

(Hebrews 4:10)

I have entered that rest. My work is done.

I have been crucified with Christ; and *it is no longer I who live*, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

(Galatians 2:20)

Beloved, since it is His life that counts now, shouldn't we be concentrating on Jesus, instead of self? After all, it is only that which is done in the power of the Spirit that will last. Anything done in the energy of our flesh will be burned up. The flesh (human nature), as much as we try, will never satisfy God. It may impress some people, but God? No way!

*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing;* the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.

(John 6:63)

So what do we do with this brand new life? Well, how about enjoying it a lot. First we learn our new identity—children of God—and what it means (read chapter “Christians”), we learn about God, our heavenly Father, and about His great love for us. We learn to see love from His perspective, not ours. We learn to think like Him, for God Himself said,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,  
Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.

“For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
So are My ways higher than your ways,  
And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

(Isaiah 55:8, 9)

I know that we like to be active and do things for God, but what God wants is our availability. He wants to produce the work—His work. His work is the only work that will last for eternity. First we have to be taught. Taught by Him. His kingdom is not of this world; we have to cement it in our mind.

If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:1-3)

We are new creatures; the “old” is dead. As we start fixing our eyes on Jesus and set our minds on the things above, the things of this world will lose their grip on us. It is a process; it takes time. The world stands in total opposition to the kingdom of God. We bring the worldly ways into the kingdom of God, and then we wonder what happened and why “it” doesn’t work. True Christianity is not observation of do’s and don’ts in the set of religious rituals. It is Jesus who lives in us and who wants to live His life through us. That is why we are called the body of Christ. Brothers and sisters, think deeply about the simple truth in the parable of the vine and the branches in John 15:1-7. Jesus said,

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

(John 15:4, 5)

Apart from Jesus, how much can we do? Nothing! Nothing that will last, that is. It has to be Jesus producing His good work in us.

The Cross accomplished: redemption, forgiveness, justification, reconciliation, and sanctification. But without the resurrection, we would still be dead. We are not saved by the death of Jesus alone. *We are saved by His life.*

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

(Romans 5:10)

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From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

(Matthew 16:21)

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.

(John 6:40)

And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

(Acts 2:24)

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.

(Acts 5:30)

For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection,

knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin;

for he who has died is freed from sin.

(Romans 6:5–7)

Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

(Romans 8:34)

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved;

for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

(Romans 10:9, 10)

Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His power.

(1 Corinthians 6:14)

[God] raised [Jesus] from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,  
and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also  
in the one to come.

(Ephesians 1:20, 21)

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant  
of David, according to my gospel.

(2 Timothy 2:8)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born  
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ from the dead,

to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and  
undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for  
you,

who are protected by the power of God through faith for a  
salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(1 Peter 1:3-5)