

### ***The power of His resurrection in you...***

Spring is here and the resurrection of Jesus has again been celebrated. It's a season of new beginnings! A little green grass looks really good after seeing only snow and ice for so long!

It's a little like a miracle to see nature's life and color after a harsh winter. How do those squirrels make it through the dead of winter curled up in a few leaves in the tops of the trees? How can those tulip bulbs push up fresh shoots again, having been frozen solid in the ground? And why, I do declare, doesn't the winter just kill off the mosquitoes permanently?! How do they just keep coming back??

It isn't just the spring of our north country that amazes me. We just observed an unusually beautiful spring in Arizona. Rain had fallen in the desert. The usually barren hills were bursting with orange, yellow, red and purple! How can an arid desert hide so many seeds for so many years, looking so dead, and then with a little moisture explode with life?

Those things just look like miracles. That Jesus rose from a grave – now that was the true miracle of all miracles. “He is not here! He is risen!”, the angel said to the disciples. “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

The miracle and the mystery of Christ's resurrection gives the power to our faith and the purpose to our lives. If Christ was not raised, Paul wrote, “we are to be pitied more than all men.” But He has been raised!

This is the most puzzling and amazing miracle of all: The resurrection power of God is in you!

*“If the Spirit of Him that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that indwells you.”*

Your life as a child of God and your strength come from the inward power of His resurrection. You have an unquenchable life within, an inner resource of power that is impossible to eliminate.

Satan has done his best to stamp out the life of Christ in the Church. But it won't be stamped out. Where ever the Church has been persecuted, and the attempt made to eliminate it, the Church rises again. Though the church goes through the fire, through the gates of death, just wait...there always seems to be a resurrection! Communism did not eliminate the church in Russia. Revival came instead! Efforts to stamp out the Church in China when it was one million strong gave rise to a Church in China now one hundred million strong!

This is also true for you, in your daily life. Satan cannot defeat the resurrection life inside of you. Hey! If even mosquitoes can survive the ice, you can come back from defeat and disappointments! Spring comes! The flowers bud again! So will you. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Life is not easy. Defeats come. Failure is largely unavoidable. These things do not mean destruction. Perhaps everyone's life at some point goes through the “valley of the shadow of death”. John Maxwell wrote: “Those who have not failed will be led by those who have.” Having failed does not mean you are a failure. Death of a dream doesn't mean the end. “Death of the vision” is a chapter in most tales of great accomplishment. In fact, it seems to be that failure or loss is the common price of ultimate success.

*“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains by itself alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.”* And so it is written, *“The outer man decays, but the inner man is being renewed day by day.”* We experience death to our natural strength, that the true life of Jesus Christ may come forth. So often it is in the darkest hours when we have run out of ideas and all hope seems lost...that God intervenes and things begin to change.

Sometimes life can even feel for a time like you are being crucified. Friends betray, people reject, hopes are crushed. These are times when you learn lay down your rights and expectations and suffer a defeat. It is like a death. It is a time like Jesus went through, not to defend yourself, not to set the record straight, not to lash out in anger, but to commit your soul (your hopes and dreams) and life to the One who judges righteously, as He did.

Learn to let go that which was lost, and of that which has died. Let go of a past seasons of life. Let go of the loved one who has gone. Let go of the failure – your own or someone else's. Even let go of past successes. It's the art of *“forgetting the things that are behind...”*

In times of loss you may even feel like dying yourself, but...no, give thanks for God's goodness and just wait, just trust for a while. The resurrection life of God within you will sprout again, as sure as the spring thaw, and as sure as the new green grass returning.

From some source within — not of your own efforts — comes the dawning of a new day, an inward resurrection! It's as if your soul has risen from the grave. It is like a spring time! It is the ever coming, ever rising, never ending, ever flowing life of God within you!

You can't kill God! And you can't kill a born again human spirit! The greatest force in the universe, the power that raised Jesus from the dead and raised Him up to the heavenlies to sit with the Father – that life force is deep inside of you. It is always, eternally there, regardless of how you feel and what you think and what has happened in your life. Has there been death? Then there will be resurrection! A grave can't hold Jesus, and it can't hold you!

*"He gives power to the weak,  
And to those who have no might He increases strength.  
Even the youths shall faint and be weary,  
And the young men shall utterly fall,  
But those who wait on the Lord  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint."* NKJV

There are just a few things are needed to allow that resurrection life to rise again.

1. Forgive.
2. Thank God for His goodness. Whatever happened, He is good, and He is not the source of evil.
3. Confess your own sins. Especially in your attitudes. Take His forgiveness and cleansing in the blood.
4. Remember that Satan is the enemy. Resist him.
5. Forget the things that are behind. Put it all under His blood by faith. This means give up grumbling and the regretting, and stop wishing for the good old days.
6. Set your eyes on Jesus Himself.
7. Look ahead! ...pressing on towards God's goal for your life – to become more like Him! Don't you remember you're on the earth to get ready for eternity?!

May the Lord's resurrection power cause you to rise up from all that has gone before, make you ready for what lies ahead, and give you eyes to see the goodness and greatness of God!