

## **The Message of Resurrection**

Resurrection is a word loaded with hope and a strong sense of eternal security.

The very thought that a dead Man could come to life was behind the imagination of anyone, least of all the disciples who had just then witnessed the gruesome death of Jesus on the Cross. Their mind benumbed with pain, fear, loss could not figure what Jesus spoke about the Temple being destroyed and built again in three days. It was doubly hard for Peter for he had denied Jesus and there was not even a moment to talk to Him before His death. But in Mark we read the angel telling the seekers of the empty tomb to , "tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee and there you will see Him as He said to you." (Mark 16,7) It was a time of joy, peace when all Jesus' disciples saw Him alive again, breaking bread with them.

We celebrate the occasion every year and not only do we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ we should also look into our lives and see whether we live resurrected lives ourselves the way Christ wants us to. Salvation is that, dying to the flesh and being alive in Jesus Christ. And immersion baptism is imperatively required so that the old sinful self is buried and we are raised in the newness of life with Christ.

Jesus Christ being God, committed His life, gave over His life into the hands of His Father. It was a voluntary decision because His life cannot be taken away by His own creation, for He is God Himself. But in the tomb, Jesus Christ is raised back to life by the Holy Spirit.

**BUT IF THE SPIRIT OF HIM WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD DWELLS IN YOU HE WHO RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD WILL ALSO GIVE LIFE TO YOUR MORTAL BODIES THROUGH HIS SPIRIT WHO DWELLS IN YOU. Romans 8, 11**

This is mind blowing if we meditate deeply over this verse. Paul had such a great revelation regarding the Resurrection and how it is important for the generations to come. He writes in I Corinthians 15, But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. V. 20. Read the whole chapter for a clearer perception.

Jesus being the first to raise from the dead leads the way to life eternal and we ought to follow Him, the same way.

## **Step No. 1 To be resurrected to newness life by the Spirit of God**

The way Jesus Christ is resurrected to life, by the Spirit of God, we absolutely need the infilling of the Holy Spirit to live out in the spiritual self. As we confess the Blood of Christ for our sins and proclaim Him as our Lord and Saviour, our sinful selves are buried and this is symbolized by our immersion baptism.

Though so many churches are divided just at this issue of baptism, nevertheless immersion baptism is the first step in inviting the Spirit of God to renew our lives. That is why all the four gospel records the fact that the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus after He was immersed and baptized by John the Baptist. Though it was not necessary for Jesus as John the Baptist said, Jesus nevertheless took baptism, so in everything He will walk before us. There should be no argument against what Jesus Himself has done.

## **Step 2 : The Spirit of God should dwell in us.**

Paul clearly outlines our strategies to live a life which is spiritual and he says we have to surrender our members which were once slave to sins to "present yourselves to God being alive from the dead and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. "(Romans 6,13). " And having been set free from sin, you become slaves of righteousness."(Romans 6, 18).

When the Spirit of God dwells in us, He conforms us to the image of His Son. (Romans 8,29)

And this new spiritual life is a life of battle – a battle between the old carnal self and the new spiritual self. And we are not helpless in this regard for God has given us an array of weapons.

Take up the Spiritual Armour . Ephesians 6 : 11-17

Put on the Armour of Light. Romans Romans 13 : 12

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts. Romans 13 : 14.

Once you are born again, life is not always heaven on earth, sin-free etc, but the struggle only gets harder, and often the passion of the soul, the early love of the soul to its Maker, the burden of the soul is killed and that is why we need to be resurrected again and again.

We need the Spirit of God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead also to touch our wounded, hurt, hopeless souls and bring us back to life. To hope again, to risk again, to be assured of that Great Imperishable Kingdom

which is in store for us. To look forward to those mansions that Jesus has gone ahead to build for us.

But for all these the first step is to relinquish my egotistic self and to fully believe on the finished work of the Cross personally for my salvation from sins, to be baptized and to receive the Spirit of God into my life, so that my life is alive with hope, love, peace, joy and look forward to that eternal City built by God and also taking along a big throng out there... to live eternally and never die...

Dear Lord help us to partake in your Resurrection that we may also become like you, dead to sin and be alive forevermore. Hallelujah. In Jesus Name Amen. Amen.

Last words of D.L.Moody, "Earth receded Heaven opens before me," and he slipped into the other side of eternity. Oh what Glory..what Glory...