

## Resurrection Life

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in me will live, even though he dies."*

These are the words of Jesus before He gave the powerful command for Lazarus to come out of the grave. The demonstration of Jesus' power over death spread everywhere. No one in his right mind could ever deny that He was truly God. But they did. Even after one of the most awesome miracles that Jesus did while on earth in the flesh, unbelief still held the hearts of many and ultimately, they would soon crucify Him like a criminal.

Here we sit, 2000 years later, looking back at the people of the time and wondering why they crucified the Lord of Glory. Hindsight is 20/20. Looking back and having the answers is always easier than facing the problems that exist in our lives today with wisdom and revelation. But the answer for the people of that time long ago and the answer for us today is still the same. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, how do you look at your life today? Who is Jesus to you? How do you acknowledge Him in your life daily? How do you live each day with the knowledge that He is with you?

The truth is that most of us, even though we are saved and are assured of going to heaven when we die, have settled for a life ruled by "phantom faith." Phantom faith is a phrase that I made up to describe my unbelief. Like the man Jesus confronted in Mark chapter nine, I believe but don't believe. The truth is that we all suffer from this malady. One of the main reasons for it is the way we view our lives. 2000 years ago Jesus said that he who believes in me will live even though he dies. This life that He was describing was not a physical life. It was an in-house thing. There is to be a growing treasure in each one of us that grows stronger with each new day, the light of which influences the world around us. Every day is filled with life-giving trials, life-giving confrontations, life-giving mountains to overcome. Every day is a day for building greater faith. Our Father has designed every day to be a day of resurrection and life.

The trouble is that although we believe, we still live very much from the outside-in. Paul told us that when we live by faith we cannot live by sight. When Peter jumped out of the boat, he was looking right at Jesus. When he looked at the waves around him, he immediately began to sink. Are you sinking? I think many times we are and we don't know how to look at Jesus and be delivered so that we can walk on the tumultuous waters and live with resurrection in our hearts. This is not to say that we don't do it sometimes, but in order to develop consistency and not sink, we need to slay the phantom. The phantom is found in Martha's words, "Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died" (John 11:21). The truth is that even though Jesus was in a natural body at the time, God the Father had designed this situation to bring glory to Himself and He was going to use Jesus, just like He will use you and me, to manifest light on earth. True faith expresses itself by tapping into the reservoir of the Kingdom within every one of us and making it known on earth in everyday situations. Phantom faith knows that the kingdom exists but doesn't believe that it can be expressed today

through little old me. Are we still looking for Jesus to show up or do we acknowledge that He lives within us?

The Kingdom is expressed through words. When we are faced with a mountain, do we wring our hands in worry or do we speak to the mountain? Do we openly confess that this trial is for the glory of God and that we WILL see the hand of the Lord in the land of the LIVIVG?

Jesus made it clear: He is the resurrection and the life and He never gave up that designation. If that kind of power exists in each believer (Ephesians 1:18-23) then we want to develop eyes that see the opportunities that the Lord has set before us each day. That's living! "Lord, I can't wait to see what you have in store for me today!" And as Ephesians 1:18 says, "I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you." When we learn to live from this inside place and not from the place of fear, we truly live a resurrection life daily. From inside of us, living waters will come forth and manifest on earth what God the father wants revealed. If the world is going to see Jesus, then we've got to live in the light and let the light shine when we face roaring waters (read Psalm 46).