

Life after Death Part 6 The Resurrected Christ

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23 KJV)

The Scriptures teaches much about life after death. We had studied the body, the soul and the spirit of man. Now we will study further Scriptures to be aware of what would take place after death.

The resurrected Christ was the same body of the crucified Christ as we read here: ***“36 And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? 42 And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. 43 And he took it, and did eat before them.” (Luke 24:36-42 KJV)*** Christ was truly resurrected in the body; he was not spirit but flesh and bones, also He ate as we read with His disciples.

In ***John 20*** after His resurrection we can read what Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, ***“Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.” (John 20:17 KJV)*** His saying to her ***“Touch me not”***, means that He was not a ghost, but a real resurrected body as we can read further in this chapter, ***“19 Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. 20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. 24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God.” (John 20:19-28 KJV)***

When Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, ***“Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren”***, what He wanted to tell her, that no need to come and touch Him now, because He was not going yet to God the Father as He said, ***“for I am not yet ascended to my Father”***, but He was staying for a while with them; and as we know He stayed forty days after His resurrection. But at that time He wanted her to go to His disciples as He commissioned her with the following: ***“but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”*** That was more urgent thing for her to do than touching Him; to go to His disciples, as He called them His brethren, was more urgent work for Him to be done, because His disciples had denied Him and run away from Him when He was arrested, and they were confused and needed someone to go to them to encourage them.

Why Jesus needed her to go to them and not that He went Himself?

1. He made it a point that we need to go to those who are discouraged, fainthearted, confused, sick, the hopeless, even to those who denied and forsake Christ.
2. He made it a point that God can speak to them (and to us today) through people who had received a message and sent by Christ to speak on His behalf. I do appreciate that people would love to listen and hear God speaking to them personally. But certain times God would not do that, but He would use to speak to us through people who are sent by Him. Therefore we should endeavor not to miss such.

In the book of Matthew when the women, Mary Magdalene and the other women with her, came to visit the tomb, and after the angel announced to them Christ's resurrection, they went to tell His disciples. While they were on the way Jesus met them, and commissioned them to tell His disciple a message that they need to go and meet with Him in Galilee, ***“9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. 10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.” (Matthew 28:9-10 KJV)*** In the following verses we can read the followings: ***“11 Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. 12 And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, 13 Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. 14 And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. 15 So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day. 16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.” (Matthew 28:11-16 KJV)*** There is nothing mentioned about the women came to inform the disciples, but what is mentioned that the disciples went to Galilee into a mountain where Jesus had appointed to meet with them. So sure the women went and informed them.

The Gospel of Mark informed us the following:

“1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the

sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. (Here the women were commissioned to go and tell His disciples to go to Galilee to meet the Lord in the place that He previously appointed with them as we had read in *Matthew 28:10*.) *8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. 9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept.* (Mary Magdalene went and informed His disciples what she heard, that he was risen from the dead. She went and announced the good news to His disciples who were mourning). *11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.* (The disciples believed her not, and sure they believed not that Jesus had commissioned her to tell them to go to Galilee to meet the Lord). *12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.* (Those most likely the two disciples that Jesus met on the way of Emmaus, as we read in *Luke 24:13-33*), *13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them. 14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.* (Jesus here met the disciples as in *John 20:19-20* and *Luke 24:36-42*)” (*Mark 16:1-14 KJV*) What is mentioned in Mark that Jesus upbraided them for their unbelief before they were convinced to go to Galilee.

Beforehand the disciples went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, in which our Lord crucified and resurrected. After His resurrection He commissioned them to meet Him in Galilee in a certain place. Why in Galilee? Because after the feast of the Passover they needed to go back to their home places which were in Galilee.

In Galilee He met them that we can read in the book of Matthew and commissioned them with the following: *“16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* (*Matthew 28:16-20 KJV*)

After the meeting in Galilee, Jesus kept meeting His disciples. Luke informed us that He was meeting His disciple for forty day after His resurrection and He instructed them not to leave Jerusalem, so most likely that was after He met them in Galilee they returned to Jerusalem waiting for the Feast of Weeks (the Feast of Pentecost) and there He commissioned them not to depart from Jerusalem until they will endow with power from above as we read here: *“I The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that*

Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (*Acts 1:1-8 KJV*) His instruction to them not to leave Jerusalem was in order to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as He promised them as we read also in Luke, *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.”* (*Luke 24:49 KJV*)

While they were in Jerusalem in His last meeting with them He was taken up to Heaven as we read here: *“9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.”* (*Acts 1:9 KJV*) This we read also in *Luke 24*, *“50 And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. 51 And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven. 52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy: 53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.”* (*Luke 24:50-53 KJV*) and this we read also in *Mark 16*, *“19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”* (*Mark 16:19-20 KJV*)

My dear and beloved: Christ bodily resurrection and His ascension to Heaven is great news for all mankind. To those who know Him to be comforted in their trials and troubles so they can be encouraged and persevered to go forward in their journey of life to serve God. To those who does not know Christ, to have hope that there is a life after death, and there is a Lord who can save them and give them eternal life. This is the hope of human kind that death is not the end of life but death, through Jesus’ great sacrifice on the cross for our sins, is just a door for eternal life, and to be with the Lord and forever, without suffering, sickness, cries or pains.

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that makes things clear to me and makes me understand that in Jesus there is resurrection and eternal life after death.

Let us confess and renounce our sins, so that we will be ready when Christ will come to take us with Him to Heaven. Renounce, doubts, lack of faith, disobedience, stubbornness, belittling others, etc.

Lord forgive me the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to live for you and to serve you. Lord I commit myself to tell others about you to get to know you and to be saved. Lord I commit myself to go to those who are in doubts, and to those who are troubled and left without hope; that I will go to them and give them the good news that you want to meet them and to use them for your glory. Lord thank you for your calling to me. I am willing to live my life to help others and to bring them unto you. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit; love, peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, faith, faithfulness, patience, self control, long suffering, perseverance, humility, and righteousness. so people would see Jesus in my life, and to be more effective in serving you.

Lord thank you for my brethren and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and lead us and open to us new doors to evangelize and making new disciples. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and help us to train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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