

The Essence of Christ's Resurrection

“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. 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. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not. 12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 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. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 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 16:1-20 KJV)

Jesus died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life. He was buried on Friday, then on Saturday (the Sabbath) according to the Jewish tradition no one should do any work. Therefore very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. That also was part of the Jewish tradition. The women they planned to go to the tomb and anoint Jesus' body and sure they would cry and shed tears for His death, that all will go according to the tradition that they belonged. But there was something else God had planned that will change the prospect of this day and the way we look at it and the way we live our lives unto God.

The women got disappointed when they did not found Jesus' body, but this was the good news for them, for everyone, and for us today; as the women were told, *“he is risen; he is not here”*. Great is our joy with such news, that as Jesus raised from the dead, we can also raised from the dead and now we have hope in reaching God and spent eternity with

Him. And as we cherish this event and that day that Jesus rose from the dead and we got the hope and the blossom future we need to respond favorably and positively to this day and as the following:

1. Jesus resurrection from the dead it should not be only one day Celebration: Everyday we should cherish this occasion and what Jesus had done for us. We should always live in holiness and the fear of God, having the hope and looking forward that one day we will be in Heaven with Jesus forever. That we should live every day in the expectation of His coming, that when He will come, that we are ready and we shall meet Him in the clouds, *“13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and wrose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV)*

2. Jesus resurrection from the dead it should not be celebrated in a traditional way: At that time the women went with spices to anoint His body. Today people they celebrate it in different ways, some they cook boiled eggs and color them, and some they worship early morning on the first day of the week in the day of His resurrection as Jesus raised from death early morning. But what the Scripture teach us how to respond to Jesus resurrection? The young man dressed in a long white garment sitting on the right side of the sepulchre told the women the following: *“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.” (Mark 16:7 KJV)* Jesus wanted the women to go and tell the encouraging good news of His resurrection to His disciples who were disappointed with His death. But what was the initial response of the women to the command of the Lord? *“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.” (Mark 16:8 KJV)* They responded negatively to the news of the resurrection; they did not celebrate that as it should be. They were at the turning point to leave their Jewish tradition and follow Christ and live their lives according to His Word. The early manuscript of the Gospel of Mark was ended by *Mark 16:8*, but later on *Mark 16:9-20* was added. *It is not God's will to be introvert and aloof to the good news that we hear about Jesus' resurrection, therefore we have to tell others about Christ's resurrection.*

3. The Essence of Christ's resurrection is to be transformed and respond to the call of God and to go and tell others about Jesus: *“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.” (Mark 16:9-10 KJV)* Jesus had done great deal to Mary Magdalene; He had delivered her from seven demons, so she needed to be faithful to Him by telling others about the good news. *The same for you, Jesus had done great things for you and had delivered you from sin and death and the*

power of darkness. Therefore you ought to respond to His goodness to you to go and tell the gospel of Jesus to those who are mourning and weeping in order to comfort them.

4. Non responding to the message of the resurrection and the Word of God and the commands of Jesus is a sign of non believe: When Mary Magdalene told those who were with Jesus about His resurrection, *“11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.” (Mark 16:11 KJV)* In response to these news events Jesus would not leave His disciples in their non believe, therefore He did the following: *“12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country.” (Mark 16:12 KJV)* When they saw the Lord they believed. But what was the sign of their believe? They went and told others about Jesus: *“13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.” (Mark 16:13 KJV)* So what we found here that when we really believe that Jesus rose from the dead then the sign of our believe is that we go and tell others about Him. We have to do our part; we have to go and tell others about Him, this is our part. If they will not believe then Jesus will go to them and will reveal Himself to them.

5. Faith without deeds is dead: The rest of the disciples who did not believe Jesus did the following to 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.” (Mark 16:14 KJV)* Jesus rebuked them for their non believe and their refusal to carry the good news to others. Jesus would rebuke us also for our non believe to the good news and our refusal to show our faith and translate that into action. If you truly believe that Jesus died for your sins and had done great things for you and had risen from the dead, then your respond to all that is to be changed and transformed and conformed to the likeness that Jesus wants you to be, and to carry the good news to those who needs comfort and to those who did not yet hear about Jesus and His resurrection.

6. A programmed mission work: *“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16 KJV)* Our mission is to go to the whole world. The church composed of the disciples of Jesus, and our mission and goals should include the whole world even to the furthest point. And we need to continue to do that till the Lord will come and take us with Him to Heaven. We need to go and preach the gospel and teach the Word of God, those who respond and are willing to follow Christ and His Word we have to baptize them. This point should be clear to us in our mission. Christ wants disciples and true followers of Him. And true disciples are not only obedient to the commands of water baptism but to all the commands of God. Therefore we are not merely called to preach but are called to make true disciples as Christ command is clear before His ascension to Heaven, *“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 28:19-20 KJV)*

7. As disciples and workers for the Lord we need to desire and go forward for the Holy Spirit baptism: As we receive the Holy Spirit Baptism the following will be manifested in our lives, *“17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17-18 KJV)* Speaking in tongues is the first manifestation of the Holy Spirit baptism. The Holy Spirit baptism empowers us to have life of prayer and enable us to speak in new tongues as the Holy Spirit enables us to preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit baptism open the way for us for more active spiritual evangelism and more miracles to be done in the name of Jesus to convince others about the resurrection of Christ and His true presence in our lives. And as we are filled with the Holy Spirit the following will happen in our lives:

A. Driving out demons: *“In my name shall they cast out devils;”* The Holy Spirit is the finger of God and the Holy Spirit baptism enable us to cast our demons and shall help the people to be delivered out from different kinds of demons.

B. Spiritual Protection: As Jesus promised, *“They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them;”* as a church when we go forward and evangelize and making new disciples we will be opposing the power of darkness that will try to hinder us and stop us to go forward. But Jesus had promised in *Matthew 16:18* the following: *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Also when Jesus is sending us He is empowering us with this promise, *“19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” (Luke 10:19 KJV)* So Christ for the mission that He entrusted to us to reach the whole world and bring them His Word He enable us to overcome devil, demons and the power of darkness and all what they might used against us from poisons, witchcraft, arrows of the evil ones and sicknesses. So we are armed and well protected by Jesus who had promised us and had given to us the Holy Spirit baptism.

C. Enablement to heal the sick: As we laid hands on those who are sick and pray they will get healed as Jesus promised, *“they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”* This gift of healing is given to us to help the sick and relieve them from their suffering. Christ’s death on the cross not only took the sins but as well as took the sicknesses as the Word of God dictates, *“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:24 KJV)* Christ resurrection for us means healing from our sicknesses and healing for the sick in our mission.

8. Preaching the Word everywhere and Christ working with us is how we to celebrate Christ’s resurrection: *“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)* If we really celebrating Christ’s resurrection then everyone should see clearly that Christ working with us; not our doing but Christ working, performing and confirming His Word.

My Dear and Beloved: “2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” (Romans 12:2 KJV) * It is the time now to renew your mind and be willing to go forward and progress in your spiritual walk and commitment to Christ. * Our Christ’s resurrection celebration it should not be in a traditional and one day only, but a life transforming process where we are willing to respond to God’s call and His Word to us by repenting from our sins and dedicating our lives fully to serve God and walk in His ways. * Let us not only celebrate Christ victory for one day in a year, but let us fulfil the mandate and do what Christ ordained for us from assignments all the days of our lives and let us preach the Word everywhere and work with Christ. Let us pray

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord forgive my sin of non believe and being non willing to go and preach the gospel. Lord I repent of these sins. Lord I commit myself to be transformed and to go forward with you to be filled with the Holy Spirit and be equipped with all what you ordained for me in your promises in the Holy Spirit baptism, preaching the Word, driving out demons, overcoming the power of darkness, healing the sick, and working with you till you come and take me with you to Heaven, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.

Lord bless us as your church and make us grow. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more people will be reached out for Christ. Lord I pray for more Bible study groups and congregations to be planted. Lord refill us once again with the Holy Spirit so that we can go and serve you and reach the lost. Lord help us and protect us as we persevere in serving you. Lord fulfil the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May 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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