

In SPIRIT and TRUTH

Jesus Christ IS The Resurrection



Will you be resurrected to meet Him in the air?

One of the most interesting things I have discovered about the character of God, is how He uses paradoxes to help us understand His ways; a paradox is something that seems to contradict itself. For instance, Jesus taught us in Luke 6:38, that you must *give to receive*, in John 12:25, if you *love your life*, you must *lose it*, and in Mark 9:35, if you want *to be first*, you must *be last*. I believe the reason why Jesus taught His disciples such concepts, is that He wanted us to understand that our ways are vastly different from His ways that govern the kingdom of God... *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* (Isaiah 55:9)

During this spring season, when most of the world turns its attention to the celebration of the pagan **Easter** holiday, I am reminded of where the true believer’s focus should be... **on the resurrection of Jesus Christ**. In seeking to gain a better understanding of *the resurrection*, the Lord had me examine a simple natural process which relates to important spiritual principles found in His Word. In John, chapter 12, Jesus taught His disciples the following, as He prepared them for His death...

“And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone: but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.” John 12:23-24 (also 1 Corinthians 15:36-38, 42-45)

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This (previous) passage of scripture also appears to be paradoxical (self-contradictory), stating that death brings forth life. And with revelation from the Word of God, it becomes evident that this concept is true as it also relates to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, in God's divine plan to redeem (restore) mankind. Furthermore, even nature teaches us that when a seed is planted in the ground, it begins the process of germination; germination is what takes place when a lifeless seed is placed in the ground and begins to change into a living, thriving plant! And in like manner, *Jesus was that seed (Gal. 3:16)*, planted for us by His death; and when resurrected (three days later) He brought forth life, so we who receive Him can have new life!

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (Jesus) was made a quickening spirit (the Holy Ghost).” 1 Corinthians 15:45



When we receive Jesus Christ and are *born again*, “the old man” is likewise *buried* by water baptism; we then we become new creatures in Christ when we receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost (John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 10:44-48; 19:1-6). And according to the Word of God, “... *if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection*” (through water and Spirit baptism). Did you catch that? *It is through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that we also receive resurrection power.* And this is the ultimate proof of the resurrection... because the resurrected Christ lives in us, we have the power to be resurrected at His return!

“... if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you (the Holy Ghost)... he shall also quicken (resurrect) your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you (at His second coming).” (Rom. 8:11; 6:5)

The Scriptures also declare that we *must* (not optional) be “born of the water and of the Spirit” (John 3:5-8; Acts 1:8) because “*flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*” (1 Corinthians 15:50). Thus, we see that salvation is not just about *believing in Jesus*, but more importantly, it is about *receiving Him, by coming into covenant with Him...*

“But as many as received him (the Holy Ghost), to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” (John 1:12; 7:38-39; Acts 2:38)

So again, back to the example of the seed in John 12... In the kingdom of God there is also the understanding that death must take place before there can be new life. Hence, Jesus's death on the cross was *necessary* for Him to be resurrected. And even though, as a natural man, His soul was “troubled” by what He was facing, He did not ask to be spared of the trial before Him; instead, He confessed that He had come into the world for that purpose, to glorify the Father, through His death (John 12:27-28). For it is also written, “He that loves his life shall lose it; and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.” (John 12:25)

Jesus' death, burial and resurrection from the dead confirmed that He was God indeed, in fulfillment of Bible prophecy! Through death on the cross, He became the sacrificial "Lamb of God" taking away the sins of the world (John 1:29); but because He rose again, He is also "the resurrection and the life"! Now everyone who believes *and receives Him* (according to the Scriptures), can be endured with His power... power to be born again, to live holy, and to likewise be resurrected at His return!

Rom. 1:4 "(Jesus Christ) declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

Psa. 16:10 (Acts 13:35) "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

John 1:29 "The next day John sees Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

Isa. 53:1-5 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

1 Thes. 4:16-17 "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: 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."

1 Cor. 15:3-4 "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures."

1 Cor. 15:20-22 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Romans 8:23 "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

1 Cor. 15:51-53 "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

