

**PATHS TO RESURRECTION, ABUNDANCE, POWER AND GLORY! (Pt. 1)**

By Rev. Gerie Martin

Are you aware of all that God has returned to you when you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior? We tend to think that we have received eternal life and that is true. However, there is much more to the every-day life of the believer than just waiting to go to heaven someday.

For instance, are you aware that for you, as a Christian and follower of "The Way" of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is more than one resurrection, one of which has already taken place in your life? Most of us, our understanding of resurrection is referring to the physical resurrection of Christ and eventually our physical bodies in the moment when He returns to this earth to take His bride away (I Thes.4:15-18).



However, there is more than just the physical resurrection of the body at that moment in time. We must also be aware of the Christian believer having been resurrected from spiritual death while still alive and on this earth. We have already been resurrected from all that died and was stolen from the human race when sin entered into this earthly kingdom. We have been restored/resurrected from spiritual death and are now seated with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).

God is in the business of restoration of all things to what He intended them to be even at this present moment. It is part of the process He initiated in Genesis when Adam was driven out of the garden, followed by Eve. He is in the business of returning to mankind all that was lost that fateful day.

You might then ask the question, "What did we lose that is being resurrected and restored to us today?"

We lost the following, priceless treasures which God is currently restoring to anyone who will receive Jesus as the Son of God and their personal Lord and Savior.

1. We lost one-on-one fellowship with God.
2. We lost the authority and dominion God had given to Adam and Eve.
3. We lost the sinless nature of God.
4. We lost the ability to communicate face-to-face with the creator of all things.
5. We lost the likeness or nature of God within us.
6. We lost the blessings of being one with God.
7. We lost son-ship with God.
8. We lost our position of grace with God.

How can that be? When Adam and Eve were separated from God by their sin, they no longer had direct access to Him. They were forced to make their own way in this world, either by growing their own food, tilling the soil to rid it of weeds, etc. They were subject to the ways of Satan, the temporary ruler of this world, being tossed to and fro as a ship without a rudder.

But God had a plan, according to Genesis 3:15, which is a reference to the Kinsman Redeemer, His son, Jesus Christ. God never let go of the plans He had for a fellowship and relationship with mankind and they are in process of restoration today.

How and when is this resurrection and restoration taking place? Day by day, person by person God is restoring all that He intended for us to be and have in Him.

As believers we know that Jesus went to the cross to defeat sin and its power over us as well as to restore mankind to a right relationship with God. We also know that it was a planned event in the eyes of God. He knew exactly what was needed to redeem mankind from the curse of sin and He provided it in the perfect Lamb of God, His son. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus was not some spur of the moment event. Down through the ages of time this was well planned and thoroughly executed so as to defeat Satan and his plans to destroy mankind.

Resurrection was what God had in mind all the time. When Jesus died and came out of that tomb, when His physical and now glorified body was literally “made to stand up” and was reunited with His Spirit, He not only arose in physical resurrection, He brought forth out of what was formerly death the forgiveness of all of our sins of the past, present and future. The sins of all mankind were removed and carried or “cast away” into the sea of forgetfulness. Anyone who will receive His words and believe that He is the Son of God and receive Him as their Lord and Savior will then be ‘resurrected’ from their former life. They will be immediately translated into the kingdom of our Lord and walk in His newness of resurrection with Him.

Again, this was not a surprise to God or Jesus. This was their plan from the moment mankind fell into sin. Jesus spoke openly and often of His impending death and resurrection. He never spoke of one without mentioning the other in equal terms. They were one action in His understanding and they should be the same in ours. He understood that to die physically meant that He would be resurrected physically as well. He also understood that in embracing this concept it meant He would be returned to eternal life with the Father; to being one with Him and the Holy Spirit (John 17). Because He understood this concept and eagerly embraced it He could face death without fear.

Are we afraid of death? A believer should never fear death because it no longer has the “sting” of eternal separation from God and eternity in the lake of fire. This is no longer in our future once we have received Christ and are living in Him. Where do you see your future and are you looking forward to it or are you fearful of it?

To be continued next week...

Blessings and Love,  
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