

Resurrection

The Fifth Ministry of Jesus

Jesus came as Savior to save man from sin, **John 1:29**. This is His first ministry. His second ministry is that of Healer, (Luke 4:18). The third ministry is that of Deliverer, also (Luke 4:18). John the Baptist tells us what Jesus' fourth ministry is in John 1:33. That ministry being that of Baptizer. Jesus, Himself, tells us in John 11:25 that His fifth ministry is resurrection. He said, "I am the resurrection."

If Jesus is the Resurrection then He had to know about death and that death is an integral part of Resurrection. **John 12:24** tells us that without death there can be no resurrection and therefore no fruit; "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit." Jesus knew if He did not die there would be no Resurrection because only He had been given power to lay down His life and only He had been given power to take it again. **John 10:17-18**, "Therefore doth my father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." We're also told that He laid His life down; no man took His life from Him.

We have been talking about Jesus; now let's talk about ourselves for a while. A man comes to Jesus, repents, acknowledges his need of a Savior and is saved, born again. This is a gift that God gives to anyone that will receive it, Praise the Lord! However, this man still has his life and can follow the Lord to death of self or he can still be a rebel, saved but a rebel, alive but not producing fruit. He is saved but he still loves his own life and "he abideth alone," John 12:24. He has been baptized by Jesus, spoken in tongues but brings forth no fruit. He's been delivered but as yet there is nothing but wood, hay, and stubble produced and this will burn. **1 Corinthians 3:12-15**. WHY? Because he loves his life, he has not yet given up his life. Therefore he will lose what he produces in this life. **1 Corinthians 3:15**, "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved: yet so as by fire." "He that loveth his life shall lose it; but he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." **John 12:25**.

If this man will allow the Lord to bring him down to the death of self, the death of his own natural strength then he can be brought back to life by the same spirit that quickened Jesus. This is giving up of life, not life being taken from you. God will not make you do this, but He will allow you to "abide alone" (**fruitless**) if you do not give up your life. Why is this death necessary? Unless and until a man allows the Lord to bring him to this death and then resurrect him, he never can walk in the spirit. This is why many Christians have condemnation, when they do not have to, according to

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

They are walking in and by the power of their own natural life or in other words, "walking after the flesh." When we walk after the flesh it brings condemnation because of its fruitlessness and because it does not please God. **Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.**

Only by being baptized into HIS death can we have the Resurrection life of Jesus; only then can we walk after the spirit, where there is no condemnation and where we can please God. Romans 8:6 "But to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Walking after the flesh is not always stealing, killing, adultery, etc. but it can be anything that we do, even as Christians, that is not led of and directed by the spirit of God.

Let us consider these examples:

Abraham was called by God and ordained of God to be the father of many nations and from his lineage was the whole world to be blessed. **Genesis 12:1-3**. This did not come about as quickly as he thought it should so he tried to help God. In doing so he brought forth Ishmael, whose descendants have caused trouble for the promised lineage of Abraham from then even until now.

Jacob was ordained to have the birthright from even before he was born. **Genesis 25:23.** Even though this had been promised by God, Rebekah and her youngest son, Jacob, could not wait, so they set about to get the promise fulfilled and it did nothing but create trouble, because it was done by the strength of the flesh.

Moses was ordained of God to be a deliverer of the nation of Israel. He knew this in his heart and he set about to do this in his own strength and power, or by the flesh, and in doing so he became a murderer (**Exodus 2:11-12.**)

These were all righteous men but they were operating by their own strength or walking after the flesh. The only works that they could do were after the flesh, but each came to the place where he had to die, actually give up his life to God, so that God could by His Spirit resurrect them, so that their mortal bodies could walk after and be led by the Spirit and do the work God had intended for them to begin with.

Galatians 6:7 tells us that whatever we sow, that is what we reap. If all of my works are after the flesh, it is because **I have not yet given my life up to God and** let Him bring me to death of self. Then until He can bring me to this death of self my works will only bring forth flesh which is corrupted already and can never be anything else but corrupted.

Abraham, Jacob, and Moses reaped corruption from what they did after the flesh; Abraham brought forth an enemy for his promised lineage. Jacob made an enemy of his own brother. Moses became a murderer.

All of this came about by their sowing to the flesh or walking after the flesh.

You and I as righteous people can sow to the flesh in many things that seemingly are good but if done by the power of the flesh then they bring forth corruption and death. Going to church, bible reading, praying, giving, witnessing, etc., all of these things can be done by the flesh and it brings forth corruption. However, if we realize the situation and yield ourselves to God even to the death of our own self, to the death of our own natural strength, to the death of our own natural spirit, then that same spirit that raised Jesus, resurrected Jesus, will quicken our own mortal bodies. When this happens we can then begin to walk after the spirit. Only then can the works that we do, be by the Spirit of God. These works are the only works that will survive the testing of **1 Corinthians 3:13.**

Just as Jesus becomes our Savior when we receive Him by faith and confess Him to be this in our lives, so will He also become our resurrection as we by faith, receive Him as this and confess Him to be our Resurrection. We have to come to the understanding that we need a Savior and then we can receive Jesus as Savior. Just in the same way we must realize we need Him in His ministry as our Resurrection before we can receive Him as this in our lives.

Let us not forget that death is an integral part of Resurrection and the Lord will bring us to this death **if we will yield our self-life to Him.** He will also Resurrect (raise us to life again) us by His spirit, so that we will truly be able to say "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

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