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VOLUME 99 MAY 2015
I AM THE RESURRECTION

Greetings saints!

We pray that this 99th edition of our Living Logos newsletter finds you experiencing His resurrection life that is available to all who have been found in Him!

As I am writing this, we just celebrated Resurrection Sunday at High Point Church, where the Lord gave us a wonderful message concerning this self same resurrection that Christ is to each one of us. So what I felt led to do this month is share this truth with all of you because although this was an “Easter sermon”, it is a timeless message that applies to our everyday lives!

But before we get into this month’s message, I wanted to make mention of our most recent book produced by Living Logos Ministries- IN THE MIRROR! Most of you received this booklet last month in place of our teaching newsletter, as we felt led to bless our friends and partners with this powerful message.

The gist of this booklet is to help people understand who they are in Christ. You know, just as we look in a mirror every morning to see what we look like, the Bible teaches us that it is a mirror that reveals to us what we look like. No, not physically. You have your natural mirror to show you what you look like naturally; but you have a spiritual mirror to reveal to you what you look like spiritually! And this spiritual mirror is the Word of God! Amen!

Jesus said in John 6:63 that His Words are spirit! He also said in John 8:31-32 that if we continue in His Words that we will know the truth and that truth will make us free. So I am here to tell you that if you want to know the truth about who you are in Christ, you must continue in the mirror of His Word. If you want to know what your spirit looks like (i.e. the part of you that was born again), then you must behold and believe what you see in this spiritual mirror.

And this is what this book helps you to do... It is a tool that will give you particular Scriptures that clearly describe what you look like on the inside. But on top of that, it also contains proclamations that you can make that will help renew your mind to these “In Christ” realities.

So if you want to grow and develop more “Christ esteem” get a hold of this book and meditate on its truths day and night! Think on them and then confess them over yourself!

If you would like a copy, you can contact our ministry through the info below and we will be happy to send one to you for a gift of any amount. Be blessed by the life changing truth of God’s Word!

Now as for this month’s teaching, let’s begin by opening our Bibles to John chapter 11 and we will begin in verse 18...

I AM THAT I AM

¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹ And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. ²⁰ Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

You know, Christians are notorious for this: over-spiritualizing God's promises. What do I mean by that? I mean that they will take a promise that God gives in His Word like say healing and then say that it is referring to "spiritual healing."

They will take the verses that say that by His stripes we are healed and how Jesus also bore our sicknesses and carried our pains as referring to healing from our spiritual sickness and infirmity. But, no, that is not true. In fact, you are really not healed spiritually; you are raised to a new life and made a new creation spiritually! So, no, you are not just made a better you when you come to the Lord; you are made a new you- a totally new creation where old things have passed away and all things have become new. Glory!

You will also hear Christians who over-spiritualize God's promises of healing by always pointing towards how we will ultimately be "healed" when we transition from this life to the next. This is usually a point that is made at funerals when someone dies with a disease or infirmity. And while I certainly believe that nothing can be compared to the wholeness we will experience in the next life, this does not mean that we should write off the promises God gives us in His Word for wholeness in this life either!

Saints, God has promised us physical healing in this life now! Let us not try to spiritualize all of His promises. For the Lord wants us to know that just as He was in the Old Covenant, the God who heals us, He still says to us today- "I AM the God who heals you!"

Well, notice how Jesus responded to Martha's statement here in verse 25-26...

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

Notice here that Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life" ... He didn't say I WAS or I WILL BE; He said, "I AM..." What Jesus was declaring to Martha was that she did not have to wait for the resurrection of the dead in the ages to come because she had the resurrection with her at that moment! Amen!

Jesus' declaration of- "I am the resurrection and the life" is so profound because not only was He declaring what He can do, but He was declaring who He is. And who He is, is who He AM! In other words, by using these two most powerful words "I AM", He is identifying Himself as more than just a man.

Do you remember when Jesus said in John 8:58- "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM"? This, of course, infuriated the Jews, because He made Himself out to be the One who spoke to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Even in the Garden, when they came to arrest Jesus, He approached them and said, "Whom are you seeking?" They responded, "Jesus of Nazareth." And the Lord said, "I AM!" Now I know many of our translations say that He responded "I am He" but the personal pronoun "he" is in italics. So literally, Jesus just responded with "I AM"- making that same proclamation that was made from the burning bush. And do you know what happened? The same thing that happened when the Great I Am spoke to Moses - He hit the deck! When Jesus spoke these powerful words- "I AM!"- the soldiers and such fell back and hit the deck as well! Glory!

But just as it has been so eloquently put that the Old Testament is Christ concealed and the New Testament is Christ revealed, God revealed Himself as the I Am that I Am in the Old Testament but Jesus came to fill in the blank in the New Testament. In the Gospel of John alone, Jesus revealed Himself as the I AM in seven different references. They are as follows:

1. I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
2. I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
3. I Am the Door (John 10:9)
4. I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
6. I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
7. I Am the True Vine (John 15:1)

So no, Jesus reveals Himself as more than a man - He reveals Himself as Divine, as greater than any prophet or good person as the Word clearly states that He is before all things and the creator of all things. Yes, all things were made through Him and for Him. Jesus was, is, and forevermore shall be the Great I AM!

THE BEGINNING AND THE END

So notice after Jesus makes this proclamation concerning himself to Martha, he asked her a question. He asked- "Do you believe this?"

Why do you suppose Jesus asked her this? Do you figure it might be because her choice to believe His Words were, in fact, vital to what was about to transpire? I guarantee you that her faith here would be a major catalyst to this tremendous miracle.

So notice Martha's response to His question in verse 27...

²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

This response sounds extremely familiar, doesn't it? It reminds me of Peter's response to Jesus' question: "Who do men say that I AM?" Now we know His disciples initially responded - "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (See Matthew 16:13-16)

You know, man has always been confused regarding this question. When asked who Jesus is, some say that Jesus was a prophet and others say He was a good man. But the truth is that He was not just a prophet, nor was He just a good man. Jesus was, is, and evermore shall be the Great I AM!

You see, Jesus could not just be a prophet or a good man. He either is who He says He is, He is a liar, or He is a lunatic. Jesus said He is the only way to the Father. He said He is the way, the truth and the life. He said that we cannot have eternal life apart from Him. Friends, these are not the words of just a good person. Again, Jesus is either who He says He is or He is a madman. There is no room for compromise. No, He is who He says He is and, as the Scriptures expressly say to us, He was God manifest in the flesh.

In Revelation 1:8, Jesus declares in His glorified state- **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord..."**

Now "alpha" is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and "omega" is the last letter of the same. Thus, Jesus is referring to Himself as the First and the Last. But this means so much more than just simply being the beginning and the ending of an alphabet. This is an ancient Greek formula that was used to convey eternity and timelessness. Therefore, this reference to being the Alpha and the Omega is a reference to Jesus' timelessness and eternity.

So what our Lord and Christ was declaring here is that He is the beginning of all things and He is the

conclusion of all things. He is eternal and everlasting - which means that He embraces and fills everything in between. So because He is timeless and envelopes all parts of our existence, He is a part of our past, our present, and the future.

On top of this, Jesus is called in Hebrews 12:2, "the author and finisher of our faith." So not only is He the originator and sustainer of all creation, He is also the One who began the good work in us and the One who has promised to complete it. Thus the reason for His next statement in Revelation 1:8...

Jesus went on to say regarding Himself- "**who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**" This again ascribes to Jesus as the Everlasting I AM as the prophet Isaiah ascribes this aspect of Jesus' nature as part of the triune God in several places...

In Isaiah 41:4, the Lord says, "I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last I am He." In Isaiah 44:6 he says, "I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God." And in Isaiah 48:12 he says, "I am He; I am the first, I also am the last." Saints, these are clear indications of the eternal nature of the Godhead represented within Jesus Christ.

But I want to draw your attention this month to one major point in this description of Jesus... If Jesus said in John 11:25 that He is the resurrection and here that He is He who is and who was and who is to come, then He must be to us the Resurrection that was, is, and is to come. Amen? In other words, there are three aspects of resurrection that every believer ought to experience.

So let's begin to look at these three "resurrections" by looking at the resurrection that was and the resurrection that is to come...

THE RESURRECTION THAT WAS AND IS TO COME

First of all, the resurrection that was is the new birth that most of us have experienced. This, of course, is a reference to our salvation experienced when we came to the Lord.

But, sadly, most Christians are not aware of what transpired on the day that they were saved. Many do not see themselves as any different. But the truth is, something very significant took place in your spirit when you called on the name of the Lord. The Bible calls it being born again. Now what it means to be born again is where the ignorance lays. This is where new life was given to the eternal part of us. In other words, it is where the Lord raised our spirit from the dead. In fact, what we symbolically do through water baptism is a perfect representation of what happens at the new birth: our old man is buried with baptism into death and the new man is raised up (i.e. resurrected) to new life (see Romans 6:4-5)!

Therefore, "the resurrection that was" is when our spirit was resurrected from the dead by the glory of the Father. Amen!

But what is also important to understand is that Jesus' resurrection was pertinent to our salvation - without it, we could not even have the opportunity to be born again, and without believing in it, we likewise cannot be born again.

We see this in 1 Peter 1:3 when the Apostle Peter said, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*"

The phrase "begotten us again" is a reference to the new birth. So how does Peter say that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ "begot us again"? It was through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Saints, Jesus' resurrection is such an important part of our faith. As a matter of fact, Jesus' resurrection is the most important event of our faith. Yes, even more than His birth (Christmas) and the Cross (Good

Friday). Now, of course, these other two events were absolutely necessary for what God desired to accomplish for us, but if Jesus would have just been born and then just went to the Cross, our faith would be futile. There had to be a resurrection!

You see, without the resurrection of Christ, there would be no hope for us. 1 Cor. 15:17 says that if Christ was not raised from the dead, we would still be in our sins. Even if Jesus went to the Cross, took all of our sins upon Himself, and suffered for us, we still could not ever have been born again until He was raised from the dead! The resurrection of Christ is what sealed the deal for our spirits to be raised from the dead. Amen!

But, as I already mentioned, there is also a resurrection which is to come...

This, of course, is a reference to the resurrection of our bodies on that great and glorious Day when Jesus splits those eastern skies and comes to claim His promised kingdom!

The Apostle John gives us wonderful insight in 1 John 3:2 when he says, "*Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*"

What he was saying here was that right now, when just our spirit is raised from the dead, we are children of God, but it has not been revealed what we shall be when Jesus returns! Hallelujah! What an awesome promise!

THE RESURRECTION THAT IS

But here is my point... Jesus is not just the resurrection that was and the resurrection that is to come; Jesus is the resurrection that is! He is the Resurrection that AM! In other words, there is a resurrected life that is to be had today! Glory to God!

Didn't Hebrews 11:6 say that without faith it is impossible to please God, "for he who comes to Him must believe that HE IS and that HE IS a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him"?

Notice that the writer of Hebrews did not say that God wants us to believe that *He was* or that *He is to come*... No, he said that we must believe that HE IS - that is, that He is who He says He is and that He'll do what He said He will do. But even more than that, He is who He says He is and He'll do what He said He will do NOW! In other words, He IS, right now, today, all that He has said that He is! Glory!

Well, God actually expects us to believe He is in the NOW and wants to reward, bless, heal, prosper, deliver, & honor us TODAY! God is waiting for His Church to get off their hands and start getting their hands on people to bring His kingdom to earth now because, contrary to popular opinion, we are not waiting on God; He is waiting on His church to rise up and take this world back for Him!

So my brothers and sisters, as I mentioned earlier, Jesus is not just the Great I was or the Great I am to come; He is the Great I AM! This means that He is in the NOW! His resurrection power can work in our lives now, today, in this very hour! It is a resurrection power that is readily available to us TODAY!

Behold, today is the day of salvation (see 2 Corinthians 6:2)! Not tomorrow. Not yesterday. Today! The Lord wants you to experience today eternal life! He wants you to experience today life and life more abundantly. You don't have to wait! You can be saved today! You can be healed today! You can be delivered today! Today is your day to experience the resurrection!

We see this in the story of Lazarus that we have been reading (You thought I forgot didn't you?©)...

LOOSED FROM THE GRAVECLOTHES

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" ⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

To me, this is such a powerful example of the Lord's will to see all of His people set free in every area of their lives today.

You see, the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead is a type of our resurrection from the dead spiritually - how we became alive in our spirit when we received the Lord into our hearts. Well, notice how even after His resurrection that "he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth."

You know, just because we have been raised from death to life through the new birth does not mean that we experience that same resurrection in our everyday lives. Many of us carry the residue of that old man into our new life. Many still have their hands bound, where they cannot do the things they want to do. Many still have their feet bound, where they cannot go where they want to go. Many still have their face wrapped up where their spiritual vision, sense, sight, and hearing are all impaired. In short, the vast majority of legitimately born again believers are still wearing various "graveclothes" (unnecessarily, I might add).

Well, the Lord's next words in this account are extremely significant... He said, "Loose him and let him go." Glory to Christ!

Friends, the Lord's will is for all of His children to be loosed from our infirmities - whether that be weaknesses in our flesh, our body, or our soul. His will is for us to enjoy the liberation that Christ our Lord has purchased for us! Jesus tells us to let go of anything that keeps us from living for Him in power. And he tells us to go and, in God's power, loose others from their bondage. Amen!

Beloved, there is freedom found in this new life! No more bondage! No more identifying with our past! No more living under the law of sin and death! We are free - free to walk in His perfect liberty!

Until next month... Maranatha!

Victoriously,

