

Living the Power of the Resurrection



He is Risen! Faith's promise is realized. True Easter joy needs the power of faith to bring about true understanding. The post-resurrection stories show this to all who hunger for truth, meaning, and fulfillment. All is based on love.

The power of resurrected life dies (sleeps) when we accept it as a comfort and insurance of salvation, of God's love for me, and then leave it at that. Believing Jesus was gloriously raised from the dead and rejoicing in this truth should tell us where it leads. Of course, given our freedom and human uniqueness, it leads to a variety of places, calling us to many differing responses. If this is true, then where is the certitude, the absolute knowledge of being right, correct, obedient, and other needs for clarity?

The time honored classic example is Thomas. In truth, he is a perfect model for the near totality of believers. They want proof that this believing will be rewarded, will have the insurance policy of eter-

nal life, no questions asked. Poor Thomas followed Jesus and lived through the fear of dying because of that bond. He left home, family, job, and way of life to accompany an itinerant preacher capable of doing remarkable things and so strong in conviction that no leader, ruler, person of authority or great wealth could stand up to His truth, honesty, compassion and love. "Why did it go wrong?", asks Thomas. "Since it is over, don't expect me to accept anyone's word about seeing Jesus alive. That will not happen until and unless I see and touch for myself."



That is us, pure and simple. Offended? Only if you disagree with the following. Believing is not enough; at least believing Jesus is our Savior is all that God expects from us. This leads to religion being a comfort station and faith a statement of doctrines.

The whole meaning of Jesus dying is because His love and truth weren't accepted, appreciated, and returned in kind. That Jesus chooses to die out of faithfulness to His love for the Father and for us is the glory He is. If we understand, appreciate, and want to live this, it calls us back to everything Jesus said and did, to every invitation from God to "listen to Him." If we do listen, we will find ourselves doing far more than we ever did in terms of love, generosity, justice, compassion, and forgiveness of each other. It will lead us away from any and every form of violence our lives contain, express, endure. That is faith, pure and simple.