

Resurrection Life – Shape & Dimension

Last week we celebrated Easter and on Sunday I spoke of “Resurrection Life being available for all”. I have been pondering that statement and as I have been reading through the New Testament, I have become more and more disturbed in my spirit about the state of my walk with God.

This is not to say I am losing my Christianity or my Salvation through Jesus Christ ... my point of frustration is the lack of the evidence of that Resurrection Life and Power that is available to us all.

I made these closing statements last week:

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the WAY the TRUTH and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

**If you feel like your lost today ... JESUS CAN SHOW YOU THE WAY
If you want answers ... JESUS WILL ONLY TELL YOU THE TRUTH
If you are feeling dead inside ... JESUS CAN CAUSE YOU TO COME ALIVE**

JOHN 1:4

“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men”

**DON’T STOP AT THE CROSS TODAY ...
BUT CROSS OVER INTO RESURRECTION LIFE**

So if we are truly going to live in the fullness of Resurrection Life we must understand what that is and what it looks like.

MATTHEW 5:14-15 (NKJV)

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.

Vs 14 (NLT) You are the light of the world—like a city on a mountain, glowing in the night for all to see.

What is it that causes us to be that light? What makes us stand out like that?
I believe it is only ONE THING and that has to be Resurrection Life living ‘in’ and showing ‘out’ of our very being; it is nothing less than the **MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD** that sets us apart from the world.

I taught a series of messages last year about the Kingdom of God and I unpacked this whole thing about God's Kingdom being 'manifest'.

This is what that word means:

MANIFEST:

revealed, plainly apparent, displayed, bare, clear, distinct, evident, glaring, open, obvious, overt, palpable, unmistakable, undeniable, visible

So how does that work for us? What makes God 'manifest' in our lives?
Is it when we function or operate from our gifts and talents?

There are many humanitarian works and projects that are incredible and successful in dealing with the 'human' and the 'do-able'. I believe these are as successful as they are because, without realising it, those involved are working out of their God given gifts.

That means these gifts will function in and through your life because that is how God designed you to function!

So – is it OK to celebrate doing something that is *HUMANLY POSSIBLE absolutely* – **but you don't have to be saved & empowered by God to do that!**

ROMANS 11:29 (NLT)

For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

(KJV) – The gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

The high point of celebration should be that we have broken through INTO THE REALM OF IMPOSSIBILITY! And that is going to the Holy Spirit!

ZECHARIAH 4:6 (NCV)

Then he told me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'You will not succeed by your own strength or power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord All-Powerful.

The scary thing is this:

We are so used to functioning and reverting back to our God Given Gifts – that many become confused or even offended when HIS Glory shows up!

This is where we need to STOP and really get a handle on what it means to live in FULLY EMPOWERED RESURRECTION LIFE.

What God used to do sovereignly – He now chooses to do in Partnership.

What does that mean?

What He used to do TO you – He now chooses to do THROUGH you.

How does God work through us?

I want to take you through a series of scriptures in reverse, in the hope it will make the importance of Resurrection Life very clear and cause us to pursue it.

2CORINTHIANS 4:7 (NLT)

But **this precious treasure**—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:15 (NKJV)

For we are to God **the fragrance of Christ** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:21-22(NLT)

It is God who **gives us**, along with you, **the ability to stand firm** for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own **by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment** of everything he will give us

ACT 10:38(NLT)

And no doubt you know that **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.** Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, for God was with him.

ACTS 9:31(NKJV)

Then **the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified.** And **walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.**

ACTS 7:51(NLT)

“You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? But your ancestors did, and so do you!

This is NOT A NEW THING!! Solomon teaches that there is nothing new under the Sun. Here is an excerpt from a message by a man named **James Denney** ((1856-1917) was a Scottish theologian and preacher):

I have hinted at ways in which the Spirit is quenched; it is sad to reflect that from one point of view the history of the Church is a long series of transgressions [by such quenching], checked by an equally long series of rebellions of the Spirit. . . . [It] came to pass at a very early period,

and in the interests of good order, [that] the freedom of the Spirit was summarily suppressed in the Church. . . . In plain English, the Spirit was quenched when Christians met for worship. One great extinguisher was placed over the flame that burned in the hearts of the brethren; it was not allowed to show itself; it must not disturb, by its eruption in praise or prayer or fiery exhortation, the decency and order of divine service. I say that was the condition to which Christian worship was reduced at a very early period: and it is unhappily the condition in which, for the most part, it subsists at this moment.

This was written in the nineteenth century!! Perhaps even then churches were faced with a similar dilemma? This gives me some encouragement in that God's amazing grace is evident!

ACTS 6:3 (NKJV)

Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

What was the 'business' ...?

Vs: 2 - Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables.

As I have been in leadership in the Church, I have heard so many times ... "*The CHURCH should do this or the Church should do that*" ... YOU ARE THE CHURCH!

ACTS 2:5-12(NKJV)

People's response when the Holy Spirit comes: some are confused, amazed, marvelled, perplexed, mocking.

JOHN 16:5-15 (NKJV)

Vs 7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Vs 12-13: "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

JOHN 14:25-26 (NKJV)

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

JOHN 14:15-18 (NLT)

“If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you do, because He lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.

To function, to operate APART from the Holy Spirit today is:

- ∞ Pointless
- ∞ Self-centred
- ∞ Contrary to God’s ordained plan
- ∞ Disobedient

If we as the Church ignore or disregard the Holy Spirit today –

... we are no different to the Church that ignored or disregarded Jesus when He walked amongst men!

I believe God’s plan for us is exactly as the first two scriptures I referred to in Acts:

ACTS 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

ACTS 9:31

And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

I believe this is what the Shape and Dimension of Resurrection Life is and it is available to us all. Let’s choose it today!