

## The Power of the Resurrection

-Going Deeper

*We must understand that resurrection power is like no other power on earth. It is unique, and has no possible rival. For one thing, it is the kind of power that operates in the midst of death. It works when everything around it is dull, dead and barren. It works best in the midst of a cemetery, for that is where it was first demonstrated. When Jesus Christ was resurrected he came out from among the dead. Therefore, if you learn to live by resurrection power you can be alive and vital when everything and everyone around you is dead and lifeless.*

*Resurrection power is also irresistible. It cannot be thwarted or turned aside. It takes absolutely no account of any obstacles thrown in its path, except to use them for further opportunities to advance its cause. When Jesus came bursting from the grave, he paid not the slightest attention to the obstacles man had placed in his way. There was a large stone in front of his tomb; he passed through it. He himself was wrapped in yard after yard of linen cloth; he left the graveclothes undisturbed behind him. There were Roman guards in front of his tomb; he ignored them. He took not the slightest notice of the decrees of Caesar, or the orders of Pilate or the fulminations of the Jewish priests.*

*Furthermore, resurrection power makes no noise. Other kinds of power that we know usually make some kind of sound: they pound, pulsate, throb, hum, buzz, explode, or roar. But resurrection power is quite silent. Without any display or ostentation it quietly accomplishes its purpose though there is nothing audible or visible to mark it. When a Christian is living by resurrection power he does not advertise it or seek to dazzle others by its display. His effect upon others is quiet and unobserved at first, but soon there are evident changes that mark the inevitable effect of resurrection power at work: the return of life, vitality, excitement and joy to an individual or situation.*

Write a prayer of thanks to God for helping you leave the kingdom of darkness behind and giving you a new you, a new reality, and a new relationship.

We began this journey with Colossians 1.13-14,

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

We have been rescued out of darkness and brought into His light. If this is true, why do we keep running back to and holding onto the things of the darkness?

As we celebrate the resurrection, we actually celebrate the victory that freed us from the darkness! From the very beginning, God has been going into the dark places and shining His Light into them. Look at each of these passages and think about the ramifications of God's Light entering the darkness.

Genesis 1.2-4

John 1.1-5

Matthew 28.1-10

2 Corinthians 4.3-6

In 2 Corinthians 4.6, Paul says that just as God's creative power spoke light into the darkness, He is now shining His light into us through Jesus. According to vv.7-12, how is this light revealed in us?

Ironically, the light is most revealed when we are most tempted to run back to the perceived comfort of the darkness. Look at these complaints of the Israelites, what strikes you about their statements and how can you identify?

Exodus 14.10-12

Exodus 16.3

Exodus 17.3

As Jesus' light shines in and through us, it gives light to a new relationship with God. Read Romans 8 and describe the new relationship that Jesus' resurrection gives us with God.

2 Corinthians 5.17 describes how as a result of Jesus' resurrection, when we entrust ourselves to Jesus, we are recreated in Him. Look at Colossians 3 and describe the new reality that Jesus' resurrection creates for us.

What tends to make you want to run back to the darkness? What elements of that kingdom do you tend to hold onto?

The reality of the resurrection is that you don't have to live that way anymore! You are a new person with a new reality and a new relationship-the old you, ruled by the kingdom of darkness is dead and a new you has resurrected with Jesus! So what does this mean?

Read the quote by Ray Stedman on the next page and think about what it means to let Jesus' resurrection power live in you.