

Your message burns in my heart and bones, and I cannot keep silent. (Jeremiah 20:9)

The testimony of JESUS is the spirit of the prophecy. (Revelation 19:10c)

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Power of His Resurrection in You

In a conversation with a brother I recently met online, we both shared how we were experiencing a heaviness. Interestingly, as I was amid writing what follows, he sent me an article he had just written, titled [**Union with Christ: Sharing In His Sufferings**](#). Truly, this was the Lord's timing and encouragement. Whether you are going through such times or not, I highly recommend it, for it speaks to an aspect of suffering, rarely talked about, that touches the very heart of God who is love.

I trust that what follows complements the above and offers some encouragement for those weighted down in this day. Our experiences and lessons learned may differ, but one thing is for sure: we have an anchor of our soul—our union with our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, and this union is a present reality that we are complete in Him. Take note that Paul places this union of completeness in the present. It is a now for those in Christ.

For it is in Him that all the fullness of Deity continues to live embodied, **and through union with Him** you too are filled with it—or: **you are (have been made) complete in Him.** (Colossians 2:9-10)

God's ways are multi-faceted and He will use any and all of these means to plant within our very being the expectation that we truly are complete in His Son. It's all about sonship, for in the heart of God is a large family in the image of His Son. Hence, nothing will deny Him the joy of bringing forth this family. In His creative love, our heavenly Father is continually making all things new and we are included in this process; however, He wants us to know, without doubt, that we have been made complete in His Son. Yes; this must be worked out in us, but in God's heart it is done. This is our expectation (hope).

Now, the word *heaviness* is used to describe what feels like some sort of drag on life; like being attached to a lead anchor. At times like this, introspection can set in, seeking out the cause or source, that covers a myriad of topics from unconfessed sin to spiritual oppression to Fatherly-love chastening. However, we need to guard against doing too much of this (apart from what the spirit reveals), for it can draw us away from a **Christ-consciousness** (Christ in you as the center) to a **self-consciousness** (self as the center). In particular, we must guard against questioning God's love for us, or questioning that the Lord will never leave us nor forsake us, or questioning whether the spirit of Christ dwells in us, or

questioning the victory we have through Him who loves us, or doubting whatever rich history we have had with Him.

Over the years, I have learned that in every situation, the first thing to do is to ask: **What is Your view, Lord?** He is at work in every chapter of our life, so seek the source of life. I was taught this many years ago through a vision of life in Christ being like a [Book on Fire](#).

This is not the first time I have been on this path. Fact is that I've been on it many times over the last forty years, ranging from mild to severe, both in and outside the Body.¹ Each time, there has been a lesson learned. In some cases, the Lord broke into the situation and revealed His heart before I had the presence of mind to inquire. The challenge is not to forget the lesson as time progresses. The good news is that the Lord does not forget and reminds us through fresh experiences that drive the lessons even deeper, writing them on our heart and in our mind. However, to be sure, some experiences are indelibly etched into us the first time to the point that we will never forget them while in these mortal bodies. By far, the most severe experience I have had involved the Body in what could only be described as a dark day of my soul. The good news is that it was about coming out of a pretentious religious life and magnifying the union we have with the lover of our life. It was a setting-free experience.

My wife and I had spent a good part of seventeen years serving in a local assembly (i.e., the local Body) that, by His grace, the Lord had led us to; we had no doubt that this was the Lord's doing.² However, the day came when the Lord severed us from the service and the fellowship of this group of brethren with whom we had been built up together in love. Let me be abundantly clear that we still love these brethren and hold no ill-will against any of them, for what we experienced was the Lord's doing. I bore the brunt of this separation when a wall of opposition unexpectedly rose up against me.³ It was a very dark time that was like a death of my soul. To this day, I don't know all that was behind this opposition, but I do know that it started with the Lord leading me to lay down my professional career and job when I was nowhere near retirement age. This laying down was a decade-long process, confirmed along the way by many signs and words from the Lord, and, frankly, held by us in secret. We knew the day had finally arrived to move on when the Lord gave my wife a word: *Arise and go; for this is no place of rest: because it is polluted, it shall destroy you, even with a sore destruction* (Micah 2:10). Even the word *polluted* had significance considering the industry in which I was working. It was quite clear that staying any longer was a danger for me, possibly both of us. Would we succumb to the opposition

¹ The Body (of Christ) is capitalized to distinguish the corporate, spiritual nature of Christ's Body (both locally and universally) from that of the individual believer's physical body.

² How the Lord led us to this group is a story unto itself. Part of the story includes being dis-fellowshipped by an assembly we had met with for about two years prior.

³ Since this was the Lord's doing, it is best not to highlight how the opposition came through the Body.

out of fear that we might have missed the Lord, or would we obey because we knew without doubt this was the Lord's doing? It was a testing of faith. We had no doubt or question—by faith we had to obey. What we didn't know at the time was that this moving on was a two-step process; the first was laying down a professional career and the second was laying down the assembly to which we had been devoted for many years. Within one year, both were behind us. Later, the picture (through a dream) the Lord gave me was of two little birds in a nest being thrust out of the nest so that they would learn to fly. This was also a further (progressive) fulfillment of a word from the Lord that came years earlier about being launched out into the deep. See: [Launch Out Into the Deep](#).

The point in sharing this is that the Lord is more interested in our union with Him and being conformed to His image and experiencing the power of His resurrection than He is in what we do for Him, or even with whom we meet. A brother once shared with me that we must hold all things lightly, even that which the Lord calls us into, so that when He blows on it, we let it go. Much is at stake if we hold onto what the Lord is taking away. It's like Saul (Paul) kicking against the goad. For more along this line, see: [Is Christ Enough?](#)

When these apparently dark or pressing times come that seem like we are facing a death of sorts, it is vital to know that **God is love** is in them. My wife and I can personally attest that the love of God has been at the center of every challenge that has come our way. One of my most oft-repeated prayers is to be in the very heartbeat of God, the thumping, loving heart of our Father.

The Father's heart is always set on His Son, that He be all in all in all things. Jesus is [the Pattern Son](#), meaning the Father fully intends to have a large family of sons in the image of *the* Son, and there are no limits to the depths He mines to accomplish this.

With this said, it appears that this present heaviness goes along with Paul's heart: ***That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death*** (Philippians 3:10). By Paul's own confession, he truly entered this fellowship, especially for the gospel and the Body of Christ, and remained in this place all the way to the end of his earthly life.

Clearly, the fellowship of His sufferings takes on many forms, from the physical to the emotional to the spiritual, from the body to the soul to the spirit. Regardless of its forms, Paul makes it clear that this is our pathway to glory and this pathway involves laying hold of Christ-likeness every step of the way. Our Lord's pathway to glory was not by avoiding the cross but by enduring it, while despising its shame. And where is He today? Seated at the right hand of the throne of God! And where are we who are in Christ today? Seated with Him in the heavenly places! And how do we continually remain in this place? By the power of His resurrection! Think about this power and its source. **The very same power**

from the very same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in us who are in Christ. This is the same spirit that manifested in the tomb in roughly 30 AD.

Now if the spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from among the dead is making its home in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from among the dead will also be giving life to your mortal bodies because of His spirit continuously making its home in you. (Romans 8:11)

We don't have to work up a head of steam, so to speak, to lay hold of this power. We have it fully and we have it now. All the resources of heaven are vested in God's Son, and these very same resources are readily available for all who have the spirit who raised Jesus from among the dead. To be sure, this same spirit will one day give us a new-creation body, that is, a spirit-animated body. However, there is a present aspect *to giving life to our mortal bodies*. This is something we can and must hold to as we endure the fellowship of His sufferings, especially when these sufferings affect our body and our emotions. I submit this is the reason that, in Philippians 3:10, Paul places the power of His resurrection before the fellowship of His sufferings. It is the power of His resurrection life that makes its home in us that sees us through the sufferings, even to the point of being conformed to His death. Without this life-giving spirit, the sufferings would overcome us. But praise God; through God's spirit, we are more than conquerors, we are victorious. Paul reminds us.

Who could ever separate us from the endless love of God's Anointed One? Absolutely no one! For nothing in the universe has the power to diminish his love toward us. Troubles, pressures, and problems are unable to come between us and heaven's love. What about persecutions, deprivations, dangers, and death threats? No, for they are all impotent to hinder omnipotent love, even though it is written: All day long we face death threats for your sake, God. We are considered to be nothing more than sheep to be slaughtered! Yet even in the midst of all these things, we triumph over them all, for God has made us to be more than conquerors, and his demonstrated love is our glorious victory over everything! So now I live with the confidence that there is nothing in the universe with the power to separate us from God's love. I'm convinced that his love will triumph over death, life's troubles, fallen angels, or dark rulers in the heavens. There is nothing in our present or future circumstances that can weaken his love. There is no power above us or beneath us—no power that could ever be found in the universe that can distance us from God's passionate love, which is lavished upon us through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One! (Romans 8:35-39 TPT)

I leave you with this mighty powerful word from Paul. May the eyes of our heart be enlightened!