

**Lesson 10 :**  
***Knowing Christ (3)—***  
***His Death and Resurrection***

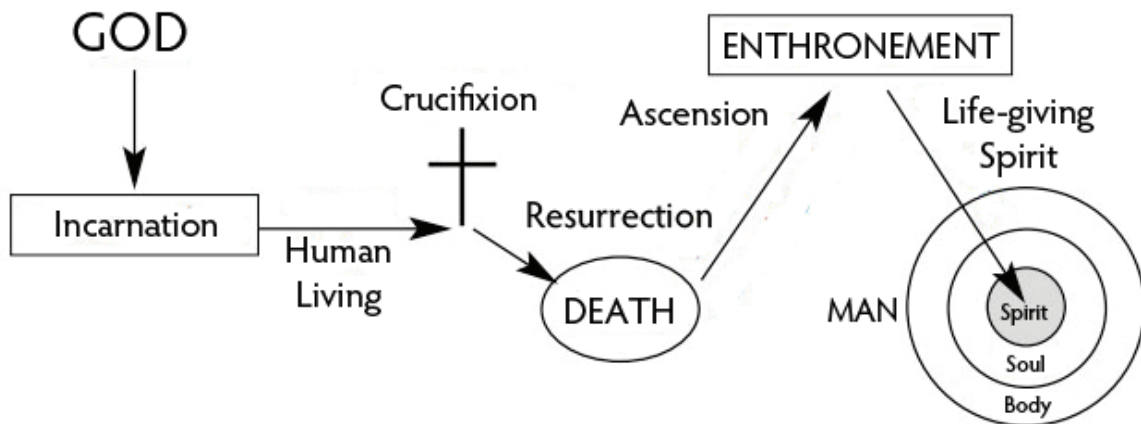


Fig. 1 - Schematic of the process Christ went through

**Lesson Objective:** In this lesson you can expect to learn the significance of Christ's death and resurrection and how it can be our experience today.

### I. The Significance of the Lord's Death and Resurrection

**Acts 13:33** That God has fully fulfilled this promise to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You."

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

**1 Corinthians 15:45b** ...the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.

If you ask someone what has been accomplished by God in Christ's resurrection, he may simply say that God raised up Christ from the dead. Surely this is fundamental and according to the Scripture. But in the same Bible there are three marvelous verses which show us the intrinsic significance of Christ's resurrection. First, Acts 13:33 tells us that in resurrection God accomplished a birth. In resurrection God begot Christ to be His firstborn Son. Then 1 Peter 1:3 tells us that through resurrection God regenerated us, the millions of God-chosen people. There was such a great delivery, a great begetting, in resurrection. Third, 1 Corinthians 15:45b tells us that in resurrection the last Adam, the man Jesus, became a life-giving spirit. These three great things took place

and were accomplished in the resurrection of Christ.

### A. The Birth of the Firstborn Son of God

**John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.**

**Romans 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;**

In resurrection, Christ was born to be the firstborn Son of God. How many have ever heard that resurrection was a birth to Christ? Who has ever thought that besides the incarnation, Christ had another birth in His resurrection?

"Today" in Acts 13:33 was the day of resurrection. Christ was begotten by God in resurrection to be God's firstborn Son. How many Christians have heard this truth? But this truth is in the Bible. Christ was the only begotten Son of God even before His incarnation (John 1:18). His incarnation was the coming of the only begotten Son of God (3:16). This Son of God was incarnated to be a man. But Acts 13:33 unveils that in resurrection God begot Christ to be the firstborn Son of God among many brothers (Rom. 8:29).

### B. The Regeneration of the Many Sons of God

**1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has regenerated us unto a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

The Bible tells us that we, the God-chosen people, were regenerated in Christ's resurrection. First Peter 1:3 tells us that God has regenerated us through the resurrection of Christ. In resurrection God begot a Son, Jesus Christ, and in resurrection God regenerated many sons. This shows us that the resurrection of Christ was a great delivery. In that same delivery, the Firstborn was Christ, and this firstborn Brother had many "twins" to follow Him. In the unique resurrection Christ was born and we were regenerated, so we were His "twins" in the same delivery.

Although this is in the Bible, who has seen it or even heard it? I can never deny this truth. This is like saying that I can never deny America because I am here in America. According to our natural idea, we were regenerated on a specific date in time after Christ's resurrection. But the Bible tells us that we were regenerated when Christ was resurrected. What a difference there is between the natural understanding and the unveiled truth!

### C. The Last Adam Becoming a Life-giving Spirit

**1 Corinthians 15:45b ...the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.**

**John 20:22 And when He had said this, He breathed into them and said to them,**

## **Receive the Holy Spirit.**

Now we come to the third great thing accomplished in Christ's resurrection. We have seen that in the same resurrection, Christ was born to be the firstborn Son of God, and we the God-chosen people were born to be the many sons of God, who are the "twins" of Christ. Also, in this same resurrection, Christ became a life-giving spirit. The holy Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 15:45b, "The last Adam became a life-giving spirit."

First Corinthians 15:45b is one of the most crucial verses in the Bible. The "last Adam" in this verse refers to Christ. The last Adam becoming a life-giving spirit indicates that God has gone through a process. God has passed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection to become the life-giving Spirit. Christ comes as this Spirit to enter into the believers. This indwelling Christ is within the believers for their experience and will never leave.

John 20 is the first account of the Lord coming to the believers as the life-giving Spirit. The disciples were gathered together in an upper room with all the doors shut for fear of the Jews. Three days earlier they had seen the Lord Jesus crucified. Suddenly Jesus was standing among them and saying, "Peace be to you"! His words were few, but He breathed into them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). His words could also be translated, "Receive the holy breath." A few more words, and He was gone. He came in without anyone's opening the door; He left without saying good-bye. It was not that He went away. Rather, He entered into them as the holy breath. From then on, wherever the disciples were, Jesus was also there. He was within them! Here is Christ in resurrection becoming the indwelling Spirit.

We can all be assured that this Christ is within us. Wherever we go, He is within. When we are happy with Him, attending the meetings, praying, and pray-reading, we may not have a strong sense that He is within. But if we go against Him, He will appear to us in a strong way. If we go somewhere or do something that does not please Him, He will speak to us from within, "What are you doing here?" Our Lord is real, living, present, and within. We do not have a religion. We have the living Christ! He is what we need and what we have.

He is real, living, and powerful, yet kind, loving, and patient. We must not think that if we offend Him, He will leave. The more we offend Him, the more He will convince us that He will never leave!

The Lord who we should enjoy each day is no longer just in the heavens. He has gone through a great process to become the life-giving Spirit. As such a Spirit, He can come to dwell within our spirit and give life to us. The life He gives is the life of the Triune God Himself. What a Spirit we have! He is the all-inclusive, compound, life-giving, indwelling Spirit who is the processed Triune God!

Some people believe in resurrection simply in an objective way. To them the resurrection of Christ is nothing more than an objective act, an act which is not related to the members of the Body of Christ. Resurrection was not merely an objective act accomplished by Christ. It is very much related to us subjectively. Through incarnation Christ became a man; He became us. Therefore, incarnation was much more than an objective fact. It was a process that brought God into humanity. The principle is the same with the process of resurrection. Resurrection was not merely an act in itself; it was a process to bring forth the life-giving Spirit. Through the process of resurrection, the

Man who ended the old creation became the life-giving Spirit, the germinating element of the new creation.

Very few Christians have seen that Christ in resurrection is a life-giving spirit. Andrew Murray, however, understood something concerning this. He wrote about it in his masterpiece, *The Spirit of Christ*, in the chapter entitled, "The Spirit of the Glorified Jesus." The Spirit of the glorified Jesus is actually the Lord Jesus Himself in resurrection and in glory. When He entered into resurrection, He became the Spirit who gives life. This life-giving Spirit is the essence to germinate a new creation. The germinating element of the new creation is the resurrected Christ as the life-giving Spirit.

## II. The Experience of the Lord's Death and Resurrection

**John 11:25 Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live;**

Resurrection is the life pulse and lifeline of the divine economy. If there were no resurrection, God would be the God of the dead, not of the living (Matt. 22:32). If there were no resurrection, Christ would not have been raised from the dead. He would be a dead Savior, not a living One who lives forever (Rev. 1:18) and is able to save to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25). If there were no resurrection, there would be no living proof of our being justified by His death (Rom. 4:25), no imparting of life (John 12:24), no regeneration (John 3:5), no renewing (Titus 3:5), no transformation (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18), and no conformity to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). If there were no resurrection, there would be no members of Christ (Rom. 12:5), no Body of Christ as His fullness (Eph. 1:20-23), and no church as Christ's bride (John 3:29), and therefore no new man (Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10-11). If there were no resurrection, God's New Testament economy would altogether collapse and God's eternal purpose would be nullified.

What is the difference between life and resurrection life? Life has not been tested by death; it has never passed through death. Resurrection life is life that has been tested by and has passed through death, proving that death is unable to do anything with it. Our life today is the resurrection life, the life that has passed through death and has proved that death cannot hold it down.

Today the Spirit is in our human spirit. The way to experientially know the power of resurrection is to turn to our spirit and remain in our spirit. It may not be necessary to pray to remain in our spirit. We may simply praise, sing hallelujahs, and shout triumphantly. This is the way to experience the power of Christ's resurrection.

The God whom we contact is resurrection. When we contact God, resurrection functions in us, and everything is under our feet. When resurrection functions in us, we are full of joy, full of peace, full of rest, full of praising, and full of rejoicing. When we are experiencing the Spirit as resurrection, all the negative things are on the cross, in the tomb, and under our feet.

The Bible reveals that, according to God's economy, we are first resurrected in our spirit. From that time onward, our Christian walk is a process of resurrection. Day by day, God is processing us from the natural life to the resurrected life. In Philippians 3:10 Paul spoke of being conformed to Christ's death. This is a continual process, not a once-for-all experience. As we know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, we are under the process of being conformed to Christ's death.

We need to point out that this process has nothing to do with the improve-

ment of behavior. It is not something ethical or religious, but altogether a matter of transformation through the divine life, of having the natural life terminated and of being brought into the divine life.

After being resurrected, the Lord Jesus cannot die again but lives forever. However, in our experience, we may not live in resurrection continuously. Our experience of death and resurrection may last for only one day or only half a day before we turn back to our flesh. When this happens, we need to die again. Most of us stay in the Holy Spirit for a very short period of time and then leave. This is very real. Hence, in terms of our experience, we do not have a solution to this problem, because in this age we still have the flesh and the old creation in us. This is why we always say that a Christian is a dual person, having a dual condition. This dual condition cannot be resolved until we are raptured and delivered from the old creation and the flesh. At that time in eternity, we will live in resurrection in reality and will never go back.

Presently, our flesh and old creation are with us. Therefore, we need to experience the death of the cross every day. Every time we experience death and live in the Holy Spirit, we enter into resurrection, but when we do not live in the Holy Spirit, we are not living in resurrection. When we turn back and live in the flesh and the self, we immediately sense that we should live in resurrection. At that time we need to pass through death again. In brief, most of us may be living in our self, our soul, being motivated and directed by our mind, emotion, and will. However, the cross requires us to put our mind, emotion, and will to death. By this, we deny our soul, our self, and turn back to our spirit. Then we are in the Holy Spirit, in resurrection and then our mind, emotion, and will are brought into our spirit. This is to bring man into God, to pass through death and enter into resurrection. Then our spirit within, that is, the Spirit of God, will direct our mind, emotion, and will from our soul. We will be living in the Holy Spirit, in resurrection.

Sometimes we leave the realm of resurrection as soon as we wake up from our sleep. Our mind thinks by itself, our emotion loves by itself, and our will makes decisions by itself, and as a result we live in our flesh. However, through fellowship and prayer, we may enter into resurrection and allow God to direct our being. This condition is very normal and spiritual because we have been mingled with and joined to God. In this situation the Spirit of God reigns in us and dominates us, directing our mind, emotion, and will in order to bring our spirit under the ruling of the Spirit of God. This is resurrection. For example, we may wake up in the morning with our own ideas, and with them come our mind and emotion. We may neglect our spirit and turn back to the self. At such a time we are going backward and are not in the Holy Spirit. After we suffer a blow and encounter some difficulties, we may be enlightened and turn back. In other words, we may pass through death and enter into resurrection again. This experience is repeated in us continuously. We may wish to stay in the spirit all the time, but most of the time we enter into the spirit and then leave it again. Sometimes we go in and out several times a day. When we kneel down to pray, we enter into the spirit, but when we rise up and contact people, we leave our spirit again. We may quickly get out of our spirit and just as quickly enter into our spirit. This is very normal. However, the most normal situation is that once we enter into our spirit, we remain there all the time. This is what the Lord desires.

All the valleys are the experiences of the cross, the experiences of the death of



Christ, and all the mountains are the experiences of the Lord's resurrection. A valley is the cross; a mountain is the resurrection. We may be one who always has some trouble, some valley, but also one who is always on the mountains, always in the experience of resurrection. Whenever there is a valley, there is a mountain. Whenever you experience the death of the cross, you will experience the resurrection. The living waters flow forth from all these experiences.

The incarnation of Christ took place in us once at the time we were saved. After we are saved, all of our experience is in the principle of death and resurrection. Incarnation is God coming into us. This took place in us when we were saved. Each one of us experienced the principle of incarnation at that time, and there is no need to repeat it. After that time, what matters is the principle of death and resurrection. The principle that we must apply in our work, our service, our living, and our experience is not incarnation but death and resurrection. Incarnation was accomplished in us once for all. All of God's riches came into us on the day of our salvation. But our entering into God depends on our experience of God after our salvation. God's work in us is to bring us into Him through death and resurrection.

### *Study Questions*

1. What does "resurrection" mean to you? What is the significance of the Lord's resurrection?
2. Where is the Lord Jesus today? Please explain?
3. How can we enter in the experience of the Lord's resurrection?

### *Weekly Challenge*

Spend some time each day to pray-read the verses from this study guide.

### *Song*

**1**

Now the Lord is the Spirit—that's how  
He can get inside of you right now.  
It's so easy to be filled with Him.  
He's made it really simple.  
One, two, three—  
That's how easy it can be.

#### **Chorus:**

O Lord! Amen!  
That's the way to let Him in.  
Hallelujah! I love to hear it.  
He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit

**2**

Now the Lord is the living air;  
You can breathe Him in anywhere—  
Anytime of day, whenever you please.  
He's made it really easy.  
O Lord! Amen!  
Let's sing it again.

**3**

Now the Lord lives inside of me.  
And He's filling me constantly.  
Yes, He's filling up every gap.  
He makes me really happy.  
I'm so happy!  
Hallelujah! Taste and see!