

Dying to Live!

⁴³ And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

⁴⁴ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. (John 11:44-45)

Yes, I have written mainly about the Lazarus moments in our lives – those difficult and seemingly impossible situations that only Jesus Himself can turn around for the better. However, the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead is also symbolic of the desire of Jesus to raise us from spiritual death into a new life with Him. It is the ‘born again’ experience. Ephesians 2:1-2 says:

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

I, too, was dead in sin and followed the sinful ways of the world. I was disobedient to the Word of God, but because of God’s love and great mercy towards me, a sinner, He made me alive with Christ through the gift of salvation. *Ephesians 2:4-5* testifies of God’s limitless love towards us, and His desire that none should perish:

⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

When sin overwhelms me, only Jesus can deliver me out of bondage, and bring me back to a new life with Christ. He is the Life-Giver, a forgiving and loving God.

Turning away from sin is not always an easy decision. Sin although enticing and enjoyable, has dire consequences. As we continue to live in sin - symbolic of the Lazarus experience where the physical body is dead and separated from Jesus - we experience spiritual death and separation from Christ

If we die without repenting of our sins, we face eternal damnation into hell. Romans 6:23 says:

²³ For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We need to die to self daily in order to enjoy the gift of eternal life in the hereafter. This is what dying to live is about. Death to my old nature, so I can live a new and abundant life in Christ – the ‘born again’ experience or rebirth. May God give us the grace to do so.

Heavenly Father,

“Father, forgive me, a sinner. I accept Your Son Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Thank You, O Lord, for redeeming me from the hands of the devil. For I was dead in my transgressions, and like Lazarus, Jesus brought me back to life. Thank You for another chance of living a full life. Help me to crucify self – my old nature - daily. Father, give me the grace and courage to walk along this new path of righteousness. Whatever, or whoever, may be keeping me from living this abundant life in Christ, let me be courageous to sever all ties, and to turn to You, my Provider and Comforter. Lord, I thank You for the Holy Spirit - my Inner Guide- Who helps me to choose ‘right’ over ‘wrong.’ Thank You, O Lord, for Your anointing to accomplish Your divine purpose for my life. All praise, honour and glory belong to You, O God. In Jesus’ mighty name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.”

Memory Verse:

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." – Romans 6:23.