

BECAUSE HE LIVES

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An Easter Sunday Message by Barbara Samuel

We know that throughout the world today people are celebrating Easter Sunday, but I pray that we are considering God's mighty Work of The Cross not just during "Holy Week", but continually. The Hebrews writer admonishes us not to "neglect so great Salvation", (Hebrews 2:3), and that means that we should always be considering what God has done: always be aware of and honoring the Blood of Christ that He shed, and allow all of that Finished Work to be worked in us. Now we know that The Cross of Christ was a Finished Work: totally satisfying the Heart of God. And it is that Finished Work that the Lord is working in us. **II Corinthians 4:10:** *"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11: For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."* So we see here that The Body of Jesus Christ collectively as the Church, and Believers individually must continually be bearing the Dying of the Lord Jesus and all that His Death on The Cross accomplished. But it is for a purpose – God's Purpose. And the word "that" means "purpose". And the purpose of our bearing the Death of Jesus is so that The LIFE also of Jesus might be made manifest – made known in our body. And that is the manifestation of His Life – Eternal Life – in us.

Now we know that The Cross is a threefold work: Death, Burial and Resurrection. It is New Life coming forth out from Death, and this is the “Easter” Sunday message – of Resurrection and New Life. But I want to share with you something the Lord has ministered to my heart. And it is the ASSURANCE we have by **The Resurrection of Jesus Christ**. And sadly I think that many Christians – even though they are Saved and have a personal Relationship with the Lord as Savior, live their daily lives with very little assurance. We read the Scriptures, we believe that they are true, and generally we believe that everything that God promised will “come to pass someday”. But we do not live in the ASSURANCE that everything that God planned and promised has now been fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ. And I know by the Scripture that we as Believers should be the manifestation of this assurance: that our God is a True and Living God who has faithfully done what He has promised to do! There is no assurance in ourselves, in others or in this natural world: but there is assurance – peaceful and joyful security for us in our Lord because of The Cross. So I want us to look in the Scriptures and I pray that the Lord will speak to our hearts regarding the assurance we have – not been promised only, but **given by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ**.

God’s assurance – of all of His Promises and all that He planned was given to man when God raised Christ from the dead. This was God’s Plan. **Acts 17:31**: *“Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof **he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**”* Notice the Scripture says that

God appointed a day of Judgment. And He established even before the world was created that this Judgment would be executed by THAT MAN He ordained. Notice it is not by “A” man, according to “a man’s judgment” but “THAT Man” that God ordained. And “That Man” was Jesus and His Work of Judgment at The Cross. And please remember that God’s understanding of “judgment” means to come to a decision and separate the living from the dead: that which is alive unto God, and that which is dead to Him. And this is an Eternal Judgment. This Judgment is not based upon our works and good deeds: but this Judgment has been given by the Father to the Son. **John 5:22:** *“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son... 27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”*

And the assurance (faith, reliance on this belief – in Christ and The Cross) is set forth as secure by **God raising HIM from the dead**. And it is extremely important that we see here in the Scriptures and understand that God raised HIM from the Dead: not many, but One. The Son of God was raised in Resurrection Life, New Life, and He now lives Eternally in union with His Father. And this “Raising” or “Resurrection” means out from the realm of Death: to stand, and never to return to that Death realm again. This is something only God could do, and He only did this for Christ: His Obedient Son who fulfilled the Will of the Father. HE – The Spotless Lamb, The Perfect Sacrifice who had no sin Himself - was the only One who was able to go into that realm of Death, and come out of it not retaining any of the “grave clothes” or any aspects of that realm. And it is by His Resurrection that God showed us His Power. **Ephesians 1:19:** *“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to*

*us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **20:** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **21:** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **22:** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, **23:** Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."*

God raising Christ and setting Him in a position of total authority as The Head of His Body, whose members we are is the strength and assurance of our New Life! I pray that the Lord would give us an understanding of the Lord's position of absolute authority – high above, greater than any and every other principality or power and name! We as Born-Again Believers - those who believe in His Resurrection should be living with this assurance: that as we are members of His Body, we live with His Life in the victory that He has already won at The Cross. And all enemies and powers in opposition to God have already been brought into a position of defeat, under the feet of the risen Savior! HE arose in Resurrection Power, and has never lost that. He will never fall or succumb to the enemy, but reigns Supreme Eternally over all other forces in the Heavens or in this earth! And His Resurrection was the DEMONSTRATION of this: the ASSURANCE of His Rule was given to all mankind when God raised Him out from the Dead.

And I pray that we will seriously consider the greatness of this and what the Father receiving Him back into Heaven means. Remember He left Heaven, to do the Will of God – all according to the Eternal Plan that was established in the

Godhead. And He could NOT have been received back to the Father unless He had ACCOMPLISHED ALL that the Father had sent Him to do! Christ in His Resurrection is the fulfillment of **Isaiah 55:11** since “God’s Word” is not simply utterances He makes, but is the very Person of His Son – who made known all of God’s Thought. *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”* What a tremendous assurance we have in Christ: that He fulfilled and accomplished everything His Father desired by the Work of The Cross. And now – because He has accomplished ALL of God’s Plan, He has sat down at the Right Hand of God – at perfect Peace and REST. And as we come to see all things fulfilled in Christ by that Finished Work, we can cease from our labors, and rest in Him. This is the assurance God desires for us.

Now I know that we read these Scriptures, and believe that they are true: but the Truth of the Scriptures should become operational; an experiential Reality in the daily lives of Believers. This is why we not only have to come to the knowledge of what The Cross has done according to God’s Eternal Plan, but allow this Reality to be worked in us daily. Under The New Covenant in Christ we no longer have a “future promise” of these things to be true “someday”: but they are true NOW. **I Peter 1:3:** *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”* God’s Mercy which was shown to us at The Cross has caused us to be Born Again if we believe on His Son, so that we have a hope (expectation) that is ALIVE. And it is alive NOW. It has

been made real to us here in the earth by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ out from the dead. His Resurrection gives us the assurance of what God has planned for His Own. **I Peter 1:4:** *“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”* We have been brought to an Eternal and Everlasting inheritance which is in the heavenlies: not kept from us now, but reserved in heaven for us. This is all secure in the heavens, in Christ! And it is in the knowing of the Risen Lord by Him revealing Himself in us in the Reality of The Cross that this Reality becomes operationally real in us. This Scripture by Peter speaks of “having begotten us again”, of us being Born Again, Born from Above.

But remember HOW we have been given New Life, how we are Born from Above. **Ephesians 2:5:** *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)* **6:** *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”* We have been quickened, raised and seated together – AS ONE – in heavenly places in Christ. We are not there separate from Christ: but we are there as One with Him: as members of His Body: **The Body of HIS Resurrection**. And we are in the earth as “The Church” to give expression of the Truth of His Resurrection, of His Life in Believers. But once again our security, our assurance is by Christ’s Resurrection. Remember this is what GOD HAS DONE when He raised CHRIST from the Dead. And even though we may be ignorant of the Truth, and choose to live by our sight (seeing ourselves in our natural bodies still being separate from The Risen Lord) rather than believing God to be true, that does not change what God has done by Christ’s Resurrection.

And this is why the understanding of the significance of Christ's Resurrection is so important for us as Believers. But it is not just learning ABOUT His Resurrection and considering it theologically: but accepting the REALITY of it and depending upon it and honoring it always. **I Corinthians 15:12:** *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13: But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain... 17: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.”* Without His Resurrection there is no hope! This is something we truly need to consider. There was no other one who could have been raised out from the dead, and bring forth a creation that has been released from the realm of death into Life with God. And without His Resurrection, then our preaching, and even believing in the Bible gives us no hope. Because our assurance before God is NOT in the things that we do or don't do: but our assurance is in what Jesus has done at The Cross, and the Father's satisfaction with that Finished Work.

I Corinthians 15:20: *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”* The Reality is that Christ is now risen from the Dead. And when He rose, in God's Eternal Viewpoint He brought with Him all those who would Live with Him unto God. We must remember there is only Life – Eternal Life, Union with God in Christ. **I Corinthians 15:22:** *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”* This Scripture does not say that everyone who dies will live forever in Heaven. It is only those who are **in Christ**: those in Him shall all be made alive. Remember The Cross was the death of all mankind. **II**

Corinthians 5:14: *“For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead.”* And it is only those who have believed in, and embraced His Cross: who have buried the old man, who come to New Life by the Power of His Resurrection, and now can walk in Newness of Life.

This again is all according to God’s Purpose: that we come to walk (live daily) in Newness of Life – now while we are in this earth. **Romans 6:4:** *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that **like as Christ was raised up from the dead** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7: For he that is dead is freed from sin. 8: Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9: Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but **in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.** 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus our Lord.”* We must be planted in the likeness of His Death, The Death of The Cross: the Death of the old world, the flesh man etc. so that we can now function in the likeness of His Resurrection – dead unto sin but alive unto God. And because He died to sin and is alive to God, and He now lives in you: this Resurrection Life is now ours. We now can live here in the earth as one who is dead to sin, but alive unto God! But once again, the Risen Christ – who now lives in us – is our full assurance.

Remember that Jesus went to The Cross having full confidence and assurance in His Father and His Plan. And He was secure knowing that even though there would be the Death, the Resurrection was assured. Jesus always told His Disciples not just of the suffering and death of The Cross: but He always said “on the third day God would raise Him up.” **Mark 9:31:** *“For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.”* (Also Matthew 17:22,23) Peter spoke of this assurance quoting from Psalms 16 in **Acts 2:22:** *“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. 25: For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27: Because **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28: Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.”*** And The Holy One who has been raised, and in Whom we now Live will not see corruption or Death: will not go again back into the Death realm, but is now and Eternally One with the Father. This is who God raised up, and what God has done by the Resurrection.

And seeing Him not only Resurrected, but also as OUR Resurrection – our raising up and standing, is our great assurance. Remember when the Disciples on the road to Emmaus only considered Jesus' Death and Burial, and a "story" that He had been raised, they were in despair. **Luke 24:21:** *"But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done. 22: Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23: And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive. 24: And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not."* But when The Resurrected One appeared and made Himself known to them, they believed according to the Scriptures that He is alive and that they were not without hope: they could believe in all of God's promises for them. This is knowing Him in the Power of His Resurrection, and it is this same Power that continues to work in us as Believers today.

So because He was Resurrected and Lives, we have that assurance. **John 14:19:** *"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also.**"* The original text of this Scripture reads "because I Live, also ye shall Live". The King James has "ye shall live also", and that we interpret to mean that we shall live also, in addition to Him. But the original translation signifies that Jesus is saying 'in the same way that I Live, you shall Live'. "In the same manner and measure I am with the Father, so shall you be. As I am in Resurrection, so shall you be.' Please consider this! Look at this in **II Corinthians 13:4:**

*“For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but **we shall live with him (JUST AS CHRIST DOES)** by the power of God toward you.”* What an assurance He is! We can Live AS HE LIVES! It is not just that He gives us a future hope that we try to make “an assurance so that I don’t have to worry too much today.” He is completely and Eternally, but most importantly NOW the assurance for us! His Resurrection – and **our being Raised as One with Him – as Members of The Body of His Resurrection is our assurance.** And truly when the Lord opens our eyes to Him and makes His Resurrection real in our hearts and His Life operational in us, we can REST with full assurance of God’s understanding.

And so in closing, let me just share a few Scriptures that speak of the glorious Reality of our Salvation: of what is true for us now **BECAUSE HE LIVES. John 5:24:** *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but **is passed from death unto life.**”* We now Live – in Him – out from the realm of Death and its condemnation, even while we have natural life in our bodies here on the earth. We no longer are in bondage and subjection to the realm of sin and death, but now are Eternally present with the Lord in the realm of Life – Eternal Life as One with God. **Colossians 1** further gives us the assurance of the realm in which we now Live. **Colossians 1:13:** *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: **14:** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”* We have been taken out of the realm of darkness and death and its power, and now Live under His

Rule, in His Kingdom of Life.

And IN HIM we HAVE the “all Spiritual Blessings” described in **Ephesians 1**: we are without blame before Him, we have been made to be acceptable to God in His Son, we have Redemption through His Blood, we have forgiveness of sins, we have obtained an inheritance. This is because He Lives, and we Live in Him. HE is our assurance. **II Corinthians 1:20**: *“For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”* And all of these blessings and His Ministry to us and for us is ETERNAL – it never ends! The Hebrews writer shows us that CHRIST as High Priest is GREATER than all the Old Covenant priests: they died and their priesthood could not continue. But HE LIVES FOREVER and His Priesthood remains unchanged! **Hebrews 7:23**: *“And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: 24: But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. 25: Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing **he ever liveth** to make intercession for them.”* **HE EVER LIVETH continually bringing us before the Father!** And we know with an assurance that we have an advocate with the Father because HE LIVES! And because we know that HE is our Great High Priest who Lives Eternally, **Hebrews 4:16** says, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* What an assurance!

And finally in **John 11** Jesus speaks here not of “Resurrection” as an act that Mary and Martha desired Jesus to perform for their dead brother, Lazarus. But Jesus speaks here of the Person of Resurrection and Life that HE is! **John**

11:25: *"Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life:** he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: **26:** And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* It is all because of The I Am - of Who He is: THE Resurrection and THE Life. We should not be looking for "the Resurrection of my body to live forever with Jesus in a place called Heaven", but see HIM as My Resurrection: my "raising up to stand in Newness of Life Eternally with God." That is Who He is, but we have to BELIEVE – Believe on HIM, Believe on His Cross. If we believe on Him, even though we die, yet shall we Live. And whosoever believes in Him, The Resurrection: they shall never die! And the question for us is: believe thou this? May we truly come to believe The Truth that Christ is, and allow that Truth to be worked in us so that we can walk in Newness of Life – His Life. This is all **BECAUSE HE LIVES!**

May this little chorus minister God's Truth to us:

Because He Lives,
I can face tomorrow.
Because He Lives,
All fear is gone.
Because I know
He holds the future.
And life is worth the living
Just because **HE LIVES!**

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