

His Life in You!

The apostle Paul clearly understood that Christ is in us. He made reference to this fact over and over again through his letters of commendation and encouragement to the believers of the early church.

One good example is in his second letter to the church at Thessalonica. He encouraged them to do God's bidding so that Jesus Christ would be glorified "in them" to the world. Let us read these two verses with that in mind.

*Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, **and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ (II Thessalonians 1:11-12).***

Notice four important points here with emphasis given to certain words:

1. fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith,

2. with power,
3. that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified,
4. in you!

What Paul was saying here needs no further explanation in order for us to comprehend it, but it **does need** to be meditated on a bit in order to take it all in.

This passage is quite inclusive regarding our instruction to do His will, and why. Notice again that He says to *“fulfill all His good pleasure,”* and not only His good pleasure, but also *“the work of faith”* – and that *“with power.”* This is one way of saying that, when it comes to doing the will of God, we should not leave any holds barred or any stones unturned! What is more, Paul made clear the reason for doing so – *“that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified **IN YOU!**”* Of course, Paul realized that Christ was in the believers of Thessalonica; he was one with them, and his spirit identified with their spirits that they were of God. But for the rest of the world to know it, Paul knew that they would need to display Jesus Christ loudly.

Now, let us not skip over this too quickly. It is vital that we catch the full magnitude of what Paul was saying to that particular church at that particular time.

It is commonly known that the church of Thessalonica was no stranger to authentic persecution on behalf of the name of Jesus Christ – the name that most people ridiculed and scorned. They did not believe in His name;

they did not believe that He was still alive; they did not believe the resurrection miracle. They identified those who did believe as a clan of crazy people, a sect of foolish zealots identifying themselves with a man who in their minds had died long before. So the church was persecuted.

It was in this context that Paul wrote to that particular church at that particular time. If by some means those persecutors could have been made to believe beyond the shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ had in fact risen from the dead and was alive in those who professed Him, then in all probability the church at Thessalonica could have avoided some persecution. The apostle Paul had also been a persecutor of the church until he received a real, authentic revelation of Jesus, at which time he abruptly stopped his efforts against the church. Like Paul before his conversion, the world around the Thessalonians needed to be absolutely convinced that Jesus was still alive and was inviting them into His kingdom on earth and in heaven. It was not enough that the believers professed Him; they needed to demonstrate Him by “faith with power!”

Not only could this save them from a measure of persecution, but it could save others from eternal loss. It was obviously their best form of evangelism. My fellow believers, I declare to you in this twenty-first century, some two thousand years after Paul wrote his letters, that it is still the best way to evangelize. The world must be

convinced that He is alive! When the power of the life of Jesus Christ, coupled with the Word of truth, is truly released out into the world through His followers, the religious debate over whose god is God will cease! In these trying times, we have no choice but to *“fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you” (us).*

Now let us take a look at the awesome magnitude of the life of Jesus Christ as describe here by the “beloved apostle” John, so that we can begin to realize how powerful it really can be in us.

*That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, **concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full (1 John 1:1-4).***

We see from John’s testimony of Jesus that He is not only alive, but He is eternal life itself! He is manifested life! He has always been alive, He is still alive today, and He will always be alive! He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning

and the end. He shall never die. He is the source of life, the giver of life, and the way of life! And if we profess that He is in us, then His life is in us also.

Now the principal point of our study is this:

Since He is life, and since He is abiding in us, then at least a measure of His life's power is resident within us; what is more, we are to demonstrate His power by releasing Him out into full view of the world. In this way, many people just like us will become fully convinced that He is alive! We need to proclaim Him by "*infallible proofs.*"

The scripture says that He presented Himself alive even to His apostles with many "*infallible proofs*" (Acts 1:3). If he needed to do that for His apostles, is it not perfectly reasonable to assume that we should do at least as much for the world that has never seen Him or known Him? Fellow followers of Jesus Christ, let us stop discounting the importance of doing mighty exploits in His name!

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews also declared that God Himself bore witness of Him "*with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will*" (Hebrews 2:4), so there would be no doubt about who Jesus really was.

All the way through the Bible we clearly see how God endowed His people with His power in order to demonstrate Him.

The following scriptures represent a few New Testament references that establish this truth.

- His life's power through whoever believes:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:12-14).

- His life's power through the twelve disciples:

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).

- His life's power through seventy other followers:

*After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. *“And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10:1, 9).**

- His life's power through those who “waited” at Pentecost:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

- His life’s power through the apostles after Pentecost:

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch (Acts 5:12).

- His life’s power through all believers...and through the church:

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us...” (Ephesians 3:20). Read verses 14-21, please.

The scriptures are full of testimonies showing how God imparts His power to His people for His honor and glory. Please notice what God said even to Moses, long before Jesus Christ came ushering in the power of His Spirit:

“But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth” (Exodus 9:16).

Even the Psalmist gives us a verse recognizing this truth:

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land (Psalm 85:9).

His life through us is meant to have a constant and continuing effect on our lives today. It is meant to be much more than just a part of our belief and confession.

How would you rate the magnitude or extent of His life's power among Christians in America today? Are **you** satisfied with the strength of His life working through you? Do you think **He** is satisfied with the evidence we currently show as it points to Him as the obvious Messiah, Savior, and Redeemer for mankind? Is His salvation toward you in vain with regard to His glory flowing from you? Are you filling "the land" with His glory where you live?

I know that **I** am not satisfied with how **I** display Him many times... not even close. If you are in agreement with me that we could do much more in displaying His life, then let us take a step forward. We do not need condemnation or accusation, but rather we just need help "getting going!" We need our faith stirred up! I hope what I share through this little booklet will do just that. Let us let Him demonstrate His very best through us!

Notice I said, "Let Him demonstrate His very best through us." I did not say, "Let us demonstrate our very best for Him."

There is a great difference between the two. He is certainly able to make someone do better what they can already do, but that is not the main purpose of His life in us; it is not just to improve our skills and talents. His life is

there so that He may do what only He can do – things that we could **never** do. It is **His** work by **His** power working through us. We only need to release Him.

After we are convinced that His life is in us to be let out, then we must act on that belief by a living faith that releases Him out into the world. It is really that simple to begin; then we grow and mature each time we exercise that release. Just begin to ask Him to show you how you can more effectively apply your faith to His life in you for the benefit of those around you.

I have had some amazing successes in the demonstration of His power through my life, and some of you may have, too; we can rejoice together for that. But like most believers, I still have a long way to go to get to where I want to be relative to the release of His life's power.

Before I share some experiences of His power working through me as a living testimony of these things, let me briefly cover another important point – that His life in us is not **always** reflected by the doing of a “mighty exploit.” Sometimes His work through us is **not** designed for all to see.

There are occasions when His love and grace will work through us in a way that only He can do, but it may not be seen by anyone. Some things that He does through us should be done “in secret,” like our giving, for example. He might actually do miracles through our giving and sacrificial help to others, but it is not necessary that those

things be known to all. The personal character and nature of Jesus Christ so often lived out through perfect love is not always seen on a broad scale. Also, depending on each believer's particular place and calling in Him, it may be that some will not have many opportunities to do what might be considered "mighty exploits;" but for those that we do have, we should take advantage of them.

As His followers, we all have the potential for Him to work mightily through us!

My concern is that there are many of us who should be much stronger and more consistent in releasing His "outstretched arm."

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Quiet acts of love are very important, but mighty exploits should be far more common among us, too! The main reason that more glorious miracles are not common among us is that we are afraid to put living faith with what we profess to believe. We are afraid to put ourselves out on a limb.

His life's power through His faith-filled believers can do many mighty things! For example, His power is available to cast out devils; heal the sick; stop or turn the storm; walk on water; be translated to another place; even raise the dead, etc. Just as He equipped those believers of the

Old Covenant and the early church, He equips us today. Any Christian who believes, as the scriptures say, that God equipped His followers with power, beginning all the way back with Moses and continuing all the way through the life of the apostles, should be able to reason within themselves that He has also equipped us today. For someone to be convinced of His power of the past, but believe that He suddenly stopped without explanation, is to be “of little faith.”

Dear brothers and sisters, if you are still a skeptic, I compel you, please, “come, let us reason together” in the same way the Lord called His people through the prophet Isaiah in an attempt to help them understand something they could not see (Isaiah 1:18).

Fellow believers, just because you have never witnessed a “mighty exploit” by your living faith does not mean that God is not waiting to do them through you.

I remember the first miracle I ever experienced happened to me when I was about ten years old. I had a severe headache that day and was resting quietly in my parents’ bedroom. I do not remember having many headaches, but this one I have often recalled for the reason that I am about to mention.

Dad, hearing of my headache pain, came into the bedroom and knelt beside my bed and began to pray.

After a minute, he laid his hands on my head and commanded the headache to go away in Jesus' name – and it did! How well I remember that moment when in what seemed to be an instant I went from severe headache pain to perfect ease. I had no more pain at all! I could hardly believe it, and I was a little afraid to admit it at the time. But it was so!

This little miracle of mine, together with the daily, matter-of-fact Bible instruction of my father and the consistent faithfulness of my mother, laid a foundation for me to believe God just as they did. Many years later I remembered that time when Dad had laid hands on me and I was healed, so I prayed for my children likewise. Sometimes the results were not so quick, but other times they were.

There is not a perfect formula, but there is a perfect faith, and we should seek to know it.

I am still in route to it today and plan to stay on track by God's grace until I acquire all that God will allow me to.

I cannot deny the miracle-working power of the life of Jesus Christ in and through the believer, especially since I have seen it happen in and through my own life since I was a child. Though they are not nearly as frequent as I would like them to be, I have seen far more miracles than I can recall.

I recall that, after I preached several years ago in a poor Latin American community, many people came to the altar for prayer. There was physical sickness everywhere, not to mention hunger and all the other traumas associated with poverty and ignorance. We witnessed many outstanding miracles that evening, including the following:

I came to a small boy in the crowded prayer line and began to simply pray for whatever his problem was to be “fixed,” since he could not tell me what was wrong, and the Holy Spirit did not reveal anything to me about him. There were very many to be prayed for, and the hour was so late that I did not ask all of them to explain their particular need, but rather I just laid hands on some of them and trusted the life of Jesus to flow into them.

I was going to move on to the next person after a minute or two with the young boy, but the Holy Spirit prompted me to keep praying several more minutes for him.

I did not see any healing manifestation but was confident that the Lord was doing something there, as I clearly sensed the Spirit at work. Many others manifested their healing that night, but not this boy.

The following morning a call came to my hotel room about 11:00 saying I was being paged downstairs. Upon entering the lower lobby I was greeted with tears of joy and an

armful of beautiful flowers from the mother of that young boy, accompanied by the child himself. Through her tears, she testified that her son had had a kidney disease since birth and that every morning he had to go for medical treatment. She said that when they went that morning, the doctors told her he appeared to be completely healed and apparently did not need treatment! All three of us hugged each other, and the rest of our team came to congratulate them! I accepted the flowers from the happy mom and lifted them high above our heads, offering them to Jesus as a token of our thanks!

The following day, she brought back her son with twelve or fifteen other family members so I could share the gospel with them, too!

I did so, and several of them made a first-time profession of faith in Jesus Christ! I still love to think about it! What a classic example this is of exactly how Jesus wants His life and power working through us for His glory – so that others might see and come to Him as Messiah, Savior, Redeemer, and Lord!

There was another time a couple of years before when a similar thing happened. I was conducting a church meeting in the mountains of southern Chile when a small child was brought to me for prayer. They told me he was born with a kidney disease, too. I simply laid my hands on him, prayed for him to be healed, and they went on their way.

They told me he was born with a kidney disease, too. I simply laid my hands on him, prayed for him to be healed, and they left.

There was no indication that anything happened, but I fully believed that it did, although I imagined I may never hear of it. The Lord said that when we pray believing, He will hear our prayer and give us those things that we ask for. I knew it was God's will and desire to heal this child.

At least several months if not a year later, I was in that area again, and this same little family greeted me in the same town meeting. This time they were all excited to see me because they could not wait to announce that their child had been totally healed! My wife Debbie and our two girls Amy and Katie were with me, and we were all elated at the news! We went to have dinner with the family as they invited us to celebrate with them over a meal of thanksgiving!

The apostle Paul wrote the church at Corinth that their testimony of Christ was confirmed in them because they came "behind in no gift" (I Corinthians 1:6-7). The spiritual gifts were and still are a confirming factor that the life of Jesus Christ is indeed in us. Why do we doubt? Oh, what little faith we have. Believe the scriptures, together with the obvious move of God's Spirit through His followers around the world today where faith *is* alive.

It should be recognized that there are many abuses of His power as well; and there are some who pretend to work by His power, but they are deceiving. This is a well documented fact. But abuses of His power through some people should not become an excuse for us to walk away from that which is true and vitally important to His message. Let us not “throw out the baby with the bath water.”

Also, we should be aware that Satan is a masterful counterfeiter and that he sometimes duplicates signs and wonders of the Lord with like signs and wonders of his own. In the story of Moses before the Pharaoh of Egypt, Satan counterfeited God’s miracle of turning Aaron’s staff into a serpent. Later in the same story he also copied plagues brought by the Lord against His enemies. Through these counterfeit moves, he tried to confuse the people and make them believe that he was great like God. Today, he is able to do exactly the same, but not only does he want people to believe that he is great like God, he also wants to confuse people so they do not know when God is manifesting His power and when Satan is manifesting his.

This is a great and deceptive ploy of the devil, and it is one that we should be keenly aware of. But the Holy Spirit will give us wise discernment if we obey Him and are attentive (I Corinthians 2).

Again, ***I do not say*** that we should be gullible to whatever power is manifest before us. However, ***I do say*** that we

should stop discounting all the obvious miracles of God's power through those who do believe.

In many cases we simply lack faith, not necessarily because we do not **want** to believe, but because we have been lazy and afraid to exercise a living faith that we do not understand with our natural minds.

There were times when the disciples lacked faith also – probably many times. Do you recall the time when Jesus was walking on the sea to meet His disciples who were in the boat (Matthew 14:22-33), and do you also remember how He called Peter to leave the boat and walk on the water to meet Him? That was a mighty exploit of faith, was it not? But suddenly Peter lost his faith and began to sink. When the Lord reached down to pull Him up, He said,

“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

There was another time when someone brought a demon-possessed child to Jesus' disciples to cast the demon out, but they could not. Recall the story with me for just a moment (Matthew 17:14-21). After the disciples failed to *“cure the child,”* Jesus did so Himself. Later His disciples asked Him why **they** were not successful in their attempt to deliver the child, and He said,

*“**Because of your unbelief;** for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and*

nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting” (verses 20-21).

His mighty power is readily available to the true believer, but many times our faith is what is lacking; without that faith, His mighty power is neither seen nor known. In much the same way that His power was with the disciples, so it is with us; but like them, we also fail to believe. To imagine that God intended to leave us nearly powerless, “out in the cold,” for almost two thousand years makes no sense at all.

Think about it for a moment. This is the era of the **New** Covenant, brothers and sisters, the time when all these things should be fulfilled for His great glory! Neither our Lord nor the writers of the New Testament even so much as implied that His life’s power would be kept from us throughout 98% of the New Covenant church age. Once again, we simply lack living faith.

Jesus clearly saw the lack of faith in the earth during His time here; and on one occasion, after He had finished teaching a parable about faith through prayer, He asked this sad question:

“Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

I am afraid that if He came today, He would find very little faith in the earth. What do you think?

Let us continue a little further to support the fact that His life's power has been distributed in one expression or another to all the members of His body. Notice this scripture written by the apostle Paul:

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills (I Corinthians 12:4-11).

We will share about spiritual gifts and their workings among us in greater detail through a future study about the Holy Spirit in the church today. But please take to heart what the scripture tells us here – that His life's power is residing in us through His Spirit, and He is ready to release that power based upon our individual faith and calling in Him.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us (II Corinthians 4:7).

I would like to share a few more real-life examples of the manifestation of His power that I have experienced in and through our ministry to others, hoping that it will encourage you to begin to impart His power which is available to you, too.

During the first five years of our ministry throughout South America, our whole ministry team, along with thousands of others present, witnessed the mighty power of God as I cast out devils galore. Let me precede the telling of these wonderful adventures in faith by saying that, based upon my experience and that of the first disciples, I believe casting out devils is the easiest of miracles that might be considered a “mighty exploit.” I have had a lot of experience in praying for people with all kinds of problems, and never have I seen a quicker “cure” than in the case of people possessed with demon spirits being delivered. So I am not boasting when I share these testimonies as if I have a “power” gift greater than anyone else; but I do not hesitate to share them since they are important to everyone who has been set free, and they are a perfect example of His life’s power working through the believer.

Remember, Jesus specifically sent His disciples out to *“heal the sick and to cast out devils.”* When the disciples returned from their first outing of doing so, they were thrilled with amazement and could think of nothing else to report. However, Jesus instructed them not to **prioritize**

their rejoicing over that, but to prioritize the fact that their names were written in the “Lamb’s book of life.”

But He was not by any means taking away from the importance of what He clearly commanded them to do – to cast out devils.

Neither was He saying they should not rejoice at all. This was an important part of His ministry then, and it still is today. The apostle John said that Jesus came to “*destroy the works of the devil*” (I John 3:8). The devil’s works include demon possession as much as they do the temptation to sin that John was speaking of. Jesus came to destroy *all* the works and manifestations of the devil.

I had my first encounter with a demon-possessed man more than thirty years ago when I was only nineteen or twenty years old, while visiting the small country of Guatemala, Central America. As a young man from the paradise of North America, I was overwhelmed with the poverty and deprivation I witnessed among the crowded multitudes. It was quite a sobering experience to stand on the edge of the mountain that surrounded that dreadful city and observe the awful smog, with a stench in the air that was even worse.

It was there that I met and confronted a demon-possessed man for the first time.

I noticed someone had begun following me as I walked casually through the busy business district of the city. After covering several blocks, I knew that this fellow, whoever he was, was getting closer and closer, and it soon became apparent that I was going to have to deal with the guy at some point. I had no idea what I was going to do if he caught up with me. I was usually pretty fearless but was not an experienced fighter, and I did not want to have my first “match” on the streets of Guatemala. In spite of my quicker steps, he came that much faster. Glancing over my shoulder, I could tell he was probably a street person. He had several distinguishing marks which led me to believe that, but the main thing drawing my attention was his eyes – they were as wild looking as one could imagine. I also discerned that he was of “another” spirit.

The Bible says that our spirit can discern the spirit of another person, and I was clearly discerning that he was under demonic influences. He was not like the many other street people I had encountered in recent days.

Well, my first attempts at getting rid of him did not faze him at all. I had turned around a couple of times within the length of a few city blocks and said with a strong, stern voice, “Get out of here!” But he did not so much as let up, even a little bit. Now, I cannot imagine that he understood English; but even if he did not have a clue as to what I was actually speaking, I made it abundantly clear that he was not welcomed. By this time I had begun praying fervently, asking the Lord to please show me what

in the world to do, when suddenly He answered my prayer! Immediately, I recalled that my dad had taught us even as children that Jesus used to cast out devils! Wow! Where was Jesus now? Daddy used to dwell on the words and the life of Jesus during our Bible study times at home, and some of that was coming back to me at just the right moment!

I also remembered Dad saying something like this: “If **you** are ever confronted with somebody who has a devil, **you** cast him out just like Jesus did.”

Like most kids who heard those stories in the Bible, I always wondered what it would be like to cast out a real devil, but I never actually thought I would see it happen. However, the more I thought about it, the stronger my faith became; until suddenly, with no other obvious way of escape, I spun around one more time, stared directly into the wild eyes of my would-be pursuer, and shouted in no uncertain terms, “I rebuke you in the name of Jesus Christ, and I command you to go in Jesus’ name!” My! My! I wish you could have been there.

The instant I rebuked him in Jesus’ name, he was obviously stunned with amazement; he gave a shout, ran wildly across the street, and high-tailed it down the other side until he was out of sight!

I hope that poor man is free by now; but if not, he might still be running today!

Wow! It really worked! I mean, it was just like Jesus promised and just like Daddy taught us as young children! The demons *are* afraid of His name and of those who will use it by faith with His authority! They are no match for those who proclaim His name with confidence! I was so thankful that Dad taught us the stories of Jesus as little children and, more especially, that His life in us is still one of mighty power! Needless to say, I felt as if I were ten feet tall, and on I went, happy now with a clear path ahead, whistling all the way up the street!

It was about twenty years later before I had another encounter of this kind. I was preaching in a prominent Baptist church in the capital city of Chile, South America, when right in the middle of my sermon the double doors in the front of the church at the far end of the center aisle burst open and another wild-eyed man came barreling through, headed toward the pulpit. This was one of those rare occasions when I was at a loss for words. But here again, I remembered the words of Jesus so often quoted by my dad, who said that we could cast out devils in Jesus' name. I did not have time to hesitate much, so staring him straight in the face, I shouted, "In the name of Jesus, I rebuke you! Let him go, devil, in Jesus' name!" By the time he reached the altar, he fell flat on the floor in front of the whole church! Now this was out of the ordinary for this church, I can assure you. God did a great thing that day in nudging me along in my faith, together with this conservative Baptist church, to discover and release His power.

I went down and knelt over the man while he lay flat on his back, stretched across the floor as if he were dead.

I was not alarmed by this, since I recalled that when Jesus cast out a devil, sometimes the person delivered would also lie there as if he were dead. It was a few minutes before we were able to revive him, but finally he got up and sat quietly in a chair for the remainder of the service like everybody else. Praise the Lord! He was as fine as he could be – clean and whole! I saw him up on a ladder painting the exterior of the church building the very next day! The pastor of the church had given him some temporary employment to help him get on his feet. I spoke to him, and he smiled back with a great big smile and spoke to me. We rejoiced in the Lord's goodness together!

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour (Acts 16:18b).

Please permit me to share just one more incident as we encourage ourselves in believing that His life's power is working in and through us today.

This experience happened along with many other miracles that took place in a service held in a large tent in a remote village of South America. It was in the wee hours of the

morning by this time, since the service did not start until after midnight. I had preached to about one hundred poverty-stricken people; afterward, as I was going down the prayer line, I came to two young girls, each probably about sixteen years old. They did not care to share with me what their need was for prayer but simply wanted me to pray for them. I assumed they were either best friends or sisters and so proceeded to lay my hands on their heads and began to pray.

This time the Holy Spirit did not show me what to pray, so I just prayed that whatever their need was would be met.

I did not feel any kind of sensation, and I had no natural clue as to whether the Lord was doing anything through my laying hands on them or not; but I continued by faith. The Holy Spirit *did* tell me to keep my hands on their heads and not to move down the line yet. Still, after several minutes, I was wondering if anything was happening; then suddenly, to my surprise, each of them simultaneously gave a bloodcurdling scream – then multiple screams!

Then as quick as a wink, they were both smiling from ear to ear with tears of jubilee streaming down their faces!

Yes! Both of them had been bound by demonic spirits, and each of them was set free! Now *I* certainly could not do that! I did not even know what was happening, but I

continued to lay my hands on their heads in faith. That was all! But the power of the life of Jesus working through me did it! You see, His life in me went through my hands into their bodies, so that after a short time the demons could not stay any longer. Praise His name! That is what His power can do through **you**, too!

I could not possibly write or even recall all the times when God delivered or healed people by the mighty workings of Jesus Christ through our believing faith.

We rejoice at the power of the life of Jesus Christ in every believer in whatever area the Lord may choose to give it. We only need to believe and act on that belief.

Not everyone needs to cast out devils. That occasion may never come your way, and I certainly do not encourage anyone to go out looking for it. I never looked for it; remember, from my very first experience, it chased after me, I did not chase after it, ever. But you could cast out devils, too, if called upon, because the life of Jesus Christ abides in you if you abide in Him by a living faith. I assure you that His power did not stop doing mighty exploits through believers with the death of the last apostle; neither has it stopped today.

There were also times when people came to me with overwhelming demonic strongholds that were very difficult to wrestle with. Sometimes I simply could not do

all that I wanted to do through His name. His power was resident still, but my faith and my spiritual strength were weak. That is a big problem for believers in this country, along with the believers in other well-developed, free-world countries. We have so much to satisfy and to occupy the flesh that we are very weak in the things of faith regarding the life of the Lord in us. We are much too weak in faith. If only we will believe and be spiritually ready “in season and out of season.”

This is what I am talking about when I put forth the questions, “Are you satisfied with the strength of His life working through you? Is He satisfied?” Are you willing to “step out on a limb” and boldly proclaim His name with His authority and see someone healed or set free?

Let us continue to believe and release His life in us until He is pleased with our effort in demonstrating Him to a lost, dying world.

When we all do that, the debate about who God really is will forever be over! My! How we need for the people of God to represent Him as He really is today! Would you not agree? If you are in Him, then He is in you and ready to begin demonstrating His life’s power through you right now. Just simply ask Him to and believe. Remember, it is **His** power in you, not **your** power in you. Ask Him to forgive you for unbelief, ignorance, or just lazy commitment – whatever it is that holds you back. I have had to do it often. You will never be the same if you

maintain such a commitment, and there is little doubt that some people you encounter will be greatly helped; what is more, His glory will fill the land where you are!

I am sure that most of us would agree with John, who said,

“Greater is He who is in you (us) than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

In agreeing with him we would have to admit that this is true only because of the power of the life of Jesus abiding in us. For where else would this “greatness” come from if not from His power? It certainly did not originate with us. His life in us is the only thing that can possibly make this statement true.

This power of God, giving and demonstrating the life of Jesus Christ, continued throughout the New Testament, when “by the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were performed” (Acts 2:43, 4:33, 5:12). His life was working through them, so much so that special miracles were done by the hand of Paul (Acts 19:11). Remember how he raised a young man who, after Paul’s long preaching, went to sleep and fell from the third floor, dying right there on the scene (Acts 20:8-12)? The Bible says that Paul embraced him and he rose up, ate with them and enjoyed fellowship until the morning. That’s the power of the life of Jesus Christ working through His people!

The Bible also records that Paul prayed over cloth handkerchiefs before sending them out to touch the sick who would be healed thereby (Acts 19:12). The life of Jesus Christ went out of Paul's hands into the cloth and out of the cloth into the life of the person needing to be healed; and with faith believing, they were healed! Even though the Person of Jesus Christ would not reside in a cloth since He has chosen to reside in His people, the molecules of the cloth are held together by the authority of His name; surely His power could be maintained in it.

Why reason with yourself over this? Is anything too hard for the Lord?

I cannot possibly recall all the times that I have been rushed on by poor, hurting people throughout Asia who have brought cloths to me for laying hands on in prayer.

They heard the story of special miracles through Paul, and they believed. I believed with them, and I would not think of turning them away. I prayed fervently over every one of them. Can you imagine all the miracles that might have occurred through this – their believing faith together with mine for His life to flow through a cloth! How unreasonable to the natural mind! But how full of faith and wonderful to believe and to see the workings of God far beyond the ability of our natural minds to comprehend!

I love the way of faith and miracles beyond comprehension. God loves them. Maybe that is exactly

what you need today, too. He can do it, and He will do it if only you believe. It does not matter if you have a physical need, an emotional need, a financial need, or a need for loved ones nearby or around the world. Trust your loving, mighty Heavenly Father through the power of Jesus Christ working by His life in you. Ask and receive by faith!

Let us take another look at what Jesus said about His life by faith working through those who follow Him:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it” (John 14:12).

Jesus also put it this way when He said,

“Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:22-23).

His life should be a verifiable, present reality in every professing believer!

Would you not agree that we are indebted to Him to represent Him as He really is if we claim to be His representatives? After we have been received of Him through the new birth, the only thing that He asks of us is to grow into His likeness.

Now, let us move on to the occasion of the death of Lazarus recorded in John chapter eleven. It would be beneficial for you to read the whole story afresh (John 11:1-44). Notice verses twenty-five and twenty-six of the passage.

Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”* (John 11:25-26).

First, I would like to define these two words, “resurrection” and “life,” as used in the New Testament. The word “resurrection” is used some forty times throughout the New Testament, and in the original language of the text it means to stand up again, to recover, or to resurge. The word “life” in the original language of the text means to have vitality of spirit, to be alive, or to be made alive. To illustrate the proper use of these words, we could say that Jesus is able to stand up a human body after death and give it vitality of spirit, making it alive again by His Spirit. So He is able both to stand the body up and to revive the spirit of man after death.

Life as a verifiable and present reality is exactly the point Jesus was trying to make to Martha.

Jesus made a very direct and emphatic statement to her, saying “I am the resurrection and the life” *after* she had already made her confident confession that Lazarus would be raised in the resurrection “in the last day.” Jesus was going to prove to her and to all those around her that He was the resurrection and the life at that moment! He wants to prove that to us now again, and He wants us to prove it to the world before us! His power to do exploits is a verifiable and present reality – even to the resurrection of the dead!

Remember, the main person of interest in this brief story was not Lazarus; it was Jesus. He simply used this occasion with Lazarus’ death to glorify Himself to Martha and to those around her – and this was all for our benefit.

In your story today, *you* may be the Lazarus. In my story today, *I* may be the Lazarus. Or it could be that there are many Lazaruses in our lives; there may be things that we grieve over and struggle with just as Martha grieved over Lazarus, because they are sealed in a tomb. It could be the desires of your heart that lie dormant; the lost hope now forgotten, never to be realized; the inability to do what you feel called to do because, for whatever reason, it is locked away; the will you cannot seem to come to grips with so that you may overcome weaknesses in your life; and the list goes on. Or perhaps you are not struggling

with such a situation, but you can help someone else who is. One casual glimpse around with a listening ear will reveal a graveyard full of sealed tombs with a thousand Marthas grieving. Are you willing to take a look around with your eyes and ears open? Can you not see the sealed tombs? Can you not hear the grieving Marthas? Sometimes we need to help someone else roll their stone away before we can confidently see that ours is not impossible to roll away, either.

In order to believe what He will do for us and others, we should boldly consider the fact that Lazarus' miraculous release from a sealed, darkened tomb was, more than anything else, an opportunity to open and illuminate **our minds** to the reality of the One who is still **outside** Lazarus' tomb – the One who came out of His **own** tomb, and who shall also deliver us out of **our** tombs at the final resurrection. He will not only do it **then**, but He will do it **now** also, unless we fail to believe His clear testimony through this simple story.

He used this occasion, common to all men everywhere, to show the way through any situation in the world where we might be overcome, even to death.

He emphasized both His *ability* and *availability* to stand up and to revive the spirit! He is the One who resides on the *inside* of us today and who does so in order to show Himself *outside* for our benefit and for all those around us.

He is still alive and well! He is still outside the tomb, and He is able to give resurrection and life to your situation no matter how dead it is! He is an ever-present help in the time of trouble, regardless of our human condition; more especially, I should say, ***in spite*** of our human condition (Hebrews 4:16). Let Him bring death to life for us and for those around us!

Like Martha, all real followers of Jesus Christ would agree that resurrection and life are essential to our *future hope and glory*, but we should equally realize that the role He wants to play today is to bring about a kind of resurrection for a *present faith and glory*.

Our future hope and glory is the reality that He will fill tomorrow, but our *present faith and glory* is the reality that He wants to fill today!

The question is, will we let Him do so? Regardless of the subject, it is always easier for us as human beings to confess and believe something far off than it is up close.

Finally, do you remember the prophet Elisha? As far as we know, he was the most powerful prophet who ever lived. Even though his predecessor, Elijah, will never be forgotten for all his mighty exploits, Elisha did exactly twice as many! Imagine that! The Bible says that when Elisha died, he was buried in a tomb as others were. Then one day someone else was accidentally buried on top of him. But when that man's dead body touched the bones

of Elisha, the dead man came to life, jumped up out of the grave, and stood on his feet! Wow! What life must have still resided in Elisha's body!

That same life of Jesus Christ abides in you if you are born of Him. He is ready to work in and through you by His life – to make your dead body come to life; to destroy all dead things in your life either instantly or little by little until you are completely healed and delivered according to your faith.

Jesus asked those around Him, "Do you believe that I can do this?" (Matthew 9:28). Jesus loves your life, and He came to give you His life abundantly!

But it is life that Satan hates and that he came to steal, kill, and destroy.

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep" (John 10:10-11).

This is one thing that Satan cannot possibly do – he cannot breathe the life of God back into a dead body. He cannot bring back the living from the dead. He cannot stand up a body by reviving its spirit through God's Spirit. He is not resurrection and life. Only Jesus Christ is resurrection and life, and only Jesus can breathe life into the dead and raise them up!

Let's look again at the story of Moses when he first went before Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God gave Aaron, Moses' brother and companion in ministry, the power to throw down his staff in front of Pharaoh, and it would turn into a serpent. This was to prove to Pharaoh that Moses was indeed representing the God of the Hebrews. But when Aaron threw down his staff and it turned into a serpent, the magicians copied him; they threw down their staffs and they became serpents as well. So the Bible says that Aaron's rod swallowed up the rods of Pharaoh's magicians. This proved that Moses not only represented the God of the Hebrews, but the God above all gods.

This was also a prophetic action that agrees with many other such prophecies in the Bible concerning the life-power of God over the death-power of Satan, even as the apostle Paul prophesied, "*death will be swallowed up in victory!*" I would add that that victory is the LIFE of Jesus Christ, for He said that the last enemy He would destroy would be death!

Praise the Lord! Satan cannot give life, only death; but for those who are in Jesus Christ, His life in them shall "*swallow up*" death in victory (I Corinthians 15:54)!

In essence, this is what happens every time a miracle takes place as a result of the display of the life of Jesus Christ with its overcoming power. The expression "*swallow up*" in this passage is translated from a word

that means to gulp entirely, or to devour, or to drown. In other words, we might say that death is overwhelmed by life – that is, the Life of Jesus Christ – and mighty exploits are a demonstration of that!

It is only in Christianity that authentic resurrections can be shown! While many other religions do not deny the historical existence of Jesus, all of them deny His resurrection, even though He had more than 500 witnesses of His resurrected body then, and He has millions of followers alive through His resurrected life all over the world right now! It is our responsibility to show the world that He has risen and that He is alive and well today, in and through us!

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Ephesians 6:10).

By Faith,

Mark S. Case

April 07

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