

April 2007
Jesus' Resurrection
And Our Hope of the Miraculous

"Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:11-14 NIV

The truth behind the celebration of Easter is the basis for our hope in Christ. Because Jesus, as a human being suffered death, burial and then resurrection, we have hope – His resurrection changes everything. It is the first fruit of what will be a reality experienced by all who believe on Him for salvation, and a present reality to be lived out today.

"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." Rev 21:4 NIV

"The old order has passed away." These words are the fulfillment of what Jesus began as humanities' redeemer, and during His ministry on earth He spoke of this same redemptive work being carried on by His disciples. Easter has a way of awakening the desire to live out the truth spoken by Jesus (Jn.14:11-14). His plan is for His followers to live out the pattern of life He established on earth. Personally, I believe that when we believed on Him for salvation and He came to reside in our heart, that He placed within all His followers a sense deep within us that we *"will do even greater things than these."* Easter has a way of awakening this desire to see, to experience life as Jesus said we would – to be used by Him to see "life" in situations where only misery and loss are usually experienced. Easter's hope is placed deeply within our hearts... dare we believe it to be true?

Life on the planet has a way of dulling our expectancy and lulling us to sleep. Our hope is more an assurance with final and complete deliverance upon our death rather than an expectancy of Jesus to show up today – through us, His church.

John and Sonja Decker, in their book, *"Doing What Jesus Did"*, write the following about living out this hope of seeing resurrection in us and through us today. *"We remember the first people we led to Christ. We experienced all the initial emotions of witnessing: fear of failure, stumbling over Scripture, and wishing we had better prepared our thoughts. What was amazing is how quickly the Holy Spirit took over in each occasion. The mere mention of the having a personal relationship with a loving God caused Him to manifest in our midst.... From those moments on we were hooked on doing what Jesus did. As we continued to share about the Lord and offer to pray for people, the more the Lord would manifest Himself.... Our first attempts were pathetic, almost apologetic. But, we discovered that God could use amateurs. He could use untrained but willing disciples that would risk praying for people just to see what God would do." (pg.11)*

Spring time declares it – resurrection is true. Dead looking grass and plants and trees are not dead as they appear to be. When God speaks the word, "arise" – death isn't the final word. Easter is God's eternal declaration: "arise." His declaration of life is for today, dare we believe it – will we believe it will happen through us? I say, "Yes, Lord." May it be as you have declared.

Pastor Dave