

"And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Luke 24:3 KJV

Death is the absence of life. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden, God left. Their spirits became separated from God who is Life and were therefore, dead. The reuniting, through faith, of man's spirit with the Holy Spirit of God resurrects, reunites the dead, separated spirit of man to once again walk and talk with God. God does not manifest Himself to men in any physical fashion, but in the spirit and thoughts of a man. *"God is a Spirit and those that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in Truth. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."* What is in God's Mind? God's Thoughts. What does God Think? His Word. When we keep God's Word in our thoughts, there is supreme fellowship. God regularly inspires my thoughts and exalts my spirit whenever I come before the omnipresent Throne of Grace if I keep His Word in my thoughts. It's how He communicates with me. Until you've experienced, heard



God's Voice, you cannot comprehend what I mean and if you have, no explanation is necessary! When your soul bows in humble adoration before God, you are in the Throne room of the Almighty. His ear is ever open to the cry of His children. Like a mother, He knows the voice of His own. When someone dies, the soul and spirit separate from the body and we say that life is departed, that the body is "dead." The soul of a man is eternal. It will reside eternally in heaven or eternally in hell. The spirit of a man is either alive, united with God, or dead, separate from God. If our spirits are united with God upon our physical death, they will remain united forever. If not, they will be forever separated. At the final judgment the sentence will be executed and "dead" souls will be removed from Sheol and cast into the Lake of Fire, forever separated from God. This is the second death. *"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and Death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And Death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death."* God is as just to punish the wicked as He is to reward the righteous. Our righteousness is not our own. It comes by virtue of our resurrected spirit and its reunification with the righteousness of God. Without God, we have no righteousness. Without Christ we are nothing. His virtue becomes our virtue when we are accepted into the Beloved. We don't accept Christ, He accepts us upon our humble confession and petition at the Throne of Grace. When Jesus "died," His Spirit, the Holy Spirit did not separate from Life, or die. His soul did not separate from Life, or die. The only part of Christ that could die was His body. The whole reason God created it in the first place was so He, God, could die, or be separated from Life. His Spirit was not placed in the tomb and neither was His soul. The Word tells us that He visited Sheol, the grave, and liberated the saints, those who had died in faith awaiting the promise of God's Messiah, Jesus Christ. There were two parts to Sheol; Paradise and the place of torment; separated by a great gulf. (See story of rich man and Lazarus – Luke 16:19) After the Body of Christ was resurrected, reunited with His Spirit and The Father, all the saints in Paradise were released into the presence of God. Hell enlarged itself. The Cross of Christ is the focal point of history. The Old Covenant Saints looked forward to the Cross, and the New Covenant saints look backward to the Cross and we all look forward through the same faith to the Resurrection. Anyone who denies the Bodily resurrection of Christ is in darkness and has no faith or renewed spirit. They are still dead, or separated from God, and still in their sin. Believe it or not.

He is risen, He is not here,
There is no need to shed a tear,
Those, who through faith for glory wait,
Will not have long to anticipate. ~CGP

Jesus, God demonstrated His power over flesh by restoring and resurrecting the most mutilated body in history. We will await His coming with a sure hope of that same resurrecting power.

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.” John 14:16-20 KJV

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