

The Power of His Resurrection

Bob and Janie R / 2024-05-21

Editor's Note: Bob R (Oct 15, 1939-Mar 22, 2024) was one of the founders of this website. And almost everyone who knew Bob and his wife Janie felt the godliness and warmth of the saints. The couple love the Chinese Church deeply and hav contributed 18 articles to this site, which are biblically based, thoughtful, and helpful to believers in understanding their own heavenly journey. This website mourns and celebrates Bob's departure to his heavenly home in March this year, and looks forward to a reunion in the future.



Article

Missionary martyr Jim Elliot died in 1956 on a riverbank in Ecuador “At the Tip of a Spear”. It is said Jim’s life is summed up by his quote “He is no fool who gives that which he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose”. Mark 8:35-36 *"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?"*

There is another quote by Mr. Elliot that is lessor known. While feeling ineffective in leading people to Christ he wrote “No fruit yet. Why is that I’m so unproductive? Surely this is not the manifestation of the power of the Resurrection”. Philippians 3:10-11 *that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death. To know Christ is also to know the power of the risen Savior in daily life and service. Including sharing in Christ’s sufferings, joint participation for the Gospel’s sake, becoming like Him in His death, in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Romans 6:4-6 Therefore we*

have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin. Death to self, a denying of self for the blessing of others.

The Greek word for 'know' in Philippians 3 verse 10 is ginosok, to be aware of, to know by experience, knowledge to speak of with understanding by being 'in Christ'. The Greek word for power 'dunamis' is a miraculous power by ability, to overcome resistance, strength in deed and work. Jesus said John 15:5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.* Now Christian branches, serve a risen Savior, the Vine, the Lamb of God seated at the Father's right hand of power. Ephesians 1:18-20 *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.*

Without the Lord Jesus Christ being raised, no souls would be saved, resurrected. For Christ was the first to be raised from the dead, Revelation 1:5 *and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.* John was told to write the things shown to him in Revelation 1:19 *"Write the things which you have seen, and the **things which are**, and the things which will take place after this.* For the redeemed to know the unimageable power and glory of the Lamb of God, Revelations 1:4 *John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from **Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.*** Even in the presence of this incredible unimaginable power we are invited to approach the Throne of God boldly Hebrews 4:14-16 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NKJV)*

When we receive and claim the perfect righteousness of Christ by faith, imputed through our Savior by God, even though our conduct in the flesh will remain imperfect until glorification. Returning to Romans 6:1-7 *What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is*

freed from sin. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is ours through the Holy Spirit who takes up His indwelling in us so we can experience this power. It will involve yielding up sinful habits and living in His will. There is an illustration of accepting Christ in conversion and the appropriation of His power in 1 Corinthians 1:30 *But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.* Sanctification is the believer being set apart instantaneous, a work of grace, and surrendering our will to the power of Christ Jesus as Lord of your life. Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.* Sanctification continues in the believer's life as the process by which the believer grows in grace and knowledge in conforming into the likeness of Christ. To grow in Grace and knowledge, to reflect the character of Christ, 2 Peter 3:18 *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.* 1 Corinthians 13:12 *For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.*

The Power of God's Word

John 1:1-5 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.* God's Word is alive and sufficient to deal with mankind's needs and problems of the heart because Christ is sufficient. Only the Word of God can enable man to deal accurately with the problems people encounter. Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.*

John 8:31-32 *So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

God's Word is sufficient for knowledge to understand behavioral, emotional, and relational problems.

Proverbs 9:10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

The Word is sufficient for life and Godliness.

2 Peter 1:3-4 *seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

The Word is profitable.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

The Word has super natural power.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 *For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe.*

The Word will perform a work in you.

2 Timothy 3:15-16 *and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.*

The Word reveals the author.

John 1:1-2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.*

The Word is good for the Soul: Mind, Will and Emotions.

Mind. Romans 8:5 *For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.* Develop a habit of monitoring the authority source by which you are functioning in any given situation,

Will. Philippians 2:13, *for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.* Hebrews 13:21 *equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.* Make a choice to “put-on” Gods Word as your source of authority.

Emotion. John 11:33 *When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,*

It is imperative that you believe that God’s Word is sufficient to deal with man’s problems and willing to submit to the authority of His Word. A working knowledge of Scriptures needs to be developed to have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16 *For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.* Using scripture to make assessments, judgments and decisions is not a matter of citing different verses but having a sufficient grasp of the whole to have a high degree of accuracy, the more study the more accurate, rightly dividing the Word avoiding any outside secular culture to influence your understanding. Study to show approval 2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

The Power of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a helper, comforter, teacher, and companion. He comes to live in us at salvation and will never leave or forsake us. The Spirit motivates, leads, and empowers us by allowing Christ to live through us. The Greek word ‘parakletos’, for intercessor, advocate, in John 14:26 it is translated Helper (NASB and NKJV), Comforter (KJV) *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.* So, walk by the Holy Spirit, third person of the Trinity, the Spirit of Truth, John 17:17 *"Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.*

The active presence of God comes alongside believers to teach, convict sin, give strength, remembrance, and intercession. Jim Elliot’s question of productivity is that the branch will not produce fruit unless it is connected to the Vine at the right hand, via the Holy Spirit. The product of the Spirit is Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.* Galatians 5:24-25 *Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.* The Holy Spirit is also the agent for effecting God’s purpose in dispersing the Gospel, Mathew 28:19-20 *"Go therefore and make disciples of all*

the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.". His presence is an exceeding great power working in us that strengthens the inner man through His Spirit Ephesians 3:16 *that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, in a relationship resulting in the glorious sense of the divine presence, resulting in the transforming of lives.*

As a new creature in Christ, old things have passed away, all things become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* Forget the things behind, we are reconciled to God by Christ Jesus, keep your sight on the Lamb above, **and the power of His resurrection.** Lay hold of your calling, Philippians 3:12 *Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.* Pursue toward the goal, for the prize of the heavenly calling of God in Christ Jesus. Vs. 14 *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* To know, John 17:3 *"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Blessing is Christ Jesus, Jude 24-25. Bob R