

LIVING RESURRECTED

Well the church is excited because we are about to celebrate Easter Sunday. Easter is, in reality our Fourth of July; our freedom in Christ. It declares our freedom from this fallen world that is presently in the hands of the god of this world "Satan". (2nd **Corinthians 4:4**) It is resurrection to newness of life, the old things have passed away, behold all things have become new. God offers life, but not an improved old life. The life He offers is life out of death (spiritual life) called the new birth or being "born again". New life begins in my spirit (new birth) so I might walk in newness of life, (**Romans 6:4**) Therefore delivering me from my old life, the person I used to be.

Notice **Romans 6:4** "He was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father that we should walk in newness of life." In **2nd Corinthians 3:7-11** The glory of God recognized in Christ by the believer is a new creation of life. (**2nd Corinthians 4:6**) New Creation is actually translated in the original text "New creature", meaning: "the original formation". In the beginning, God communicated with man spiritually until man lost his spiritual identity becoming one with his flesh. (**Genesis 6:3**)

Mankind went out of God spiritually, but once we are born again we now have access to the Father of our spirits to reconnect and be changed into the same image: from one glory to another glory. By His Spirit at work in my spirit (inner man) (**Ephesians 3:16**) thus reflecting the Father just as Jesus reflected the Father. Now we can see why Jesus said wait for the Holy Spirit, He will give you the power to be my witnesses. **The cross that ended the earthly life of Jesus now puts an end to the "old" life of the sinner who receives Him; and the power that raised Christ from the dead now raises the "born again believer" to a new life in Christ.**

The cross is a symbol of death. It stands for the abrupt, violent end of a human being. The cross made no

compromise and spared nothing, and when it had finished its work the man was no more. That's what Jesus meant when he said in **Matthew 16:24** "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself (refuse input from his old life) and take up his cross and follow Me." **Vs 25** "for whoever desires to save his [old] life will lose it, and whoever loses his [old] life (puts it to death) for My sake will find it".

Easter is very special to me, it's where we gain our freedom through Jesus' resurrection. Now to plainly identify what Easter means to us; **2nd Corinthians 5:18** "now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation" (to be invited from being his enemy to friend) **vs 19** "that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing (to log in account against mankind) their trespasses to them and has committed to us the word of reconciliation." **vs 20** "therefore we are ambassadors for Christ as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ behalf, be reconciled to God." (take the offer) **vs 21** "for He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Resurrection & reconciliation: this is the good news of the Gospel of Jesus! Happy Easter and Resurrection Day! Jesus is alive and His Spirit lives on the inside of every born again believer, giving us abundant life. This Easter and the days following, let's not just be reminded of the power of what Jesus did, but actively living in the reality of it!

Love,
JANN T. BUTLER



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