



Living in the Resurrection

Retreat/ Group Companion WORKBOOK



LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION

Retreat/ Group Companion

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



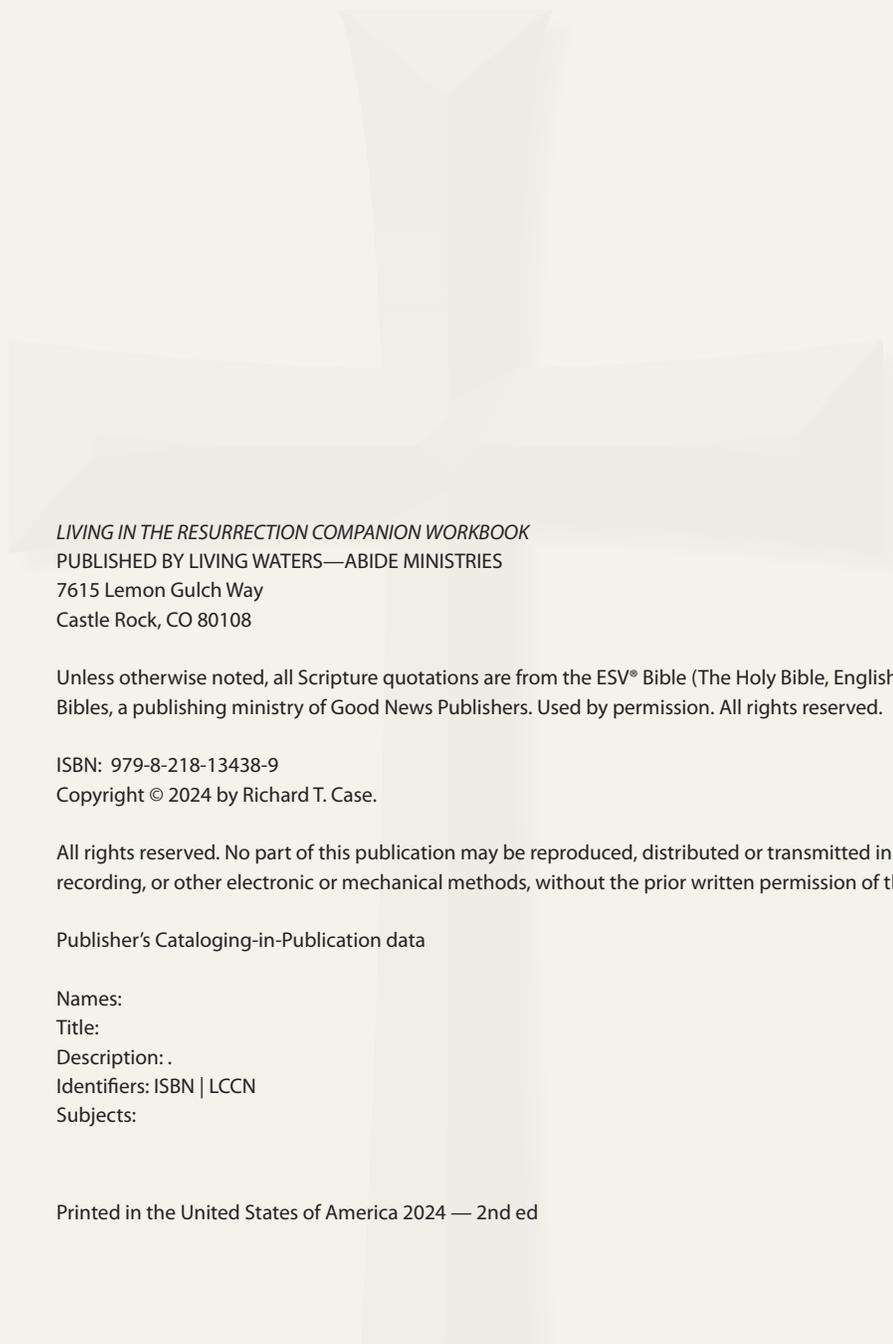


Dedication / Acknowledgements

I wish to dedicate this course to and thank my wife, Linda, and our ministry leaders who have learned and now experience this extraordinary wonder of the power of the resurrection. Christians tend to live in the natural in a sense as “practical atheists” who go through life trying to do our best in a difficult world, thinking the life we live depends on our natural abilities. The Father wants us to realize that Christ was resurrected and now lives in the resurrection. His life is to be our life—the life of the resurrection—that receives and experiences the supernatural power to overcome, deliver, provide resolution to hardship and difficulties—amazing answers to prayer. Linda and our leaders have processed this wonderful truth and now routinely can bear witness to the very resurrection power that raised Christ from the dead; the power that can change circumstances and guide us into God’s abundant life that only He can provide. We have the privilege of this being reality and not living in discouragement and resignation, but in hope and expectation of God’s life being fulfilled in our life. Now that we are experiencing this, we all are able to teach others of this significant aspect of the Christian life that then makes the difference between the natural struggle of solving our own issues and having God fulfill the power of the resurrection as He resolves all our issues. Thank you, Linda and ministry team for being shining examples of living in the resurrection.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS



Lesson One:
What Is the Resurrection and Its Privileges? 2

Lesson Two:
Our Choice of Living in the Resurrection and Its Consequences 10

Lesson Three:
Role of the Holy Spirit in Leading Us Into and We Experiencing the Resurrection 22

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?



"I'm the resurrection and the life, if you believe that, you'll live, and if you live, you will have this amazing life."

What does Jesus say to Martha? What is the full meaning of this statement? What is so critical for us to understand as this relates to our lives? Why?

Read John 11:25–26:

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
^[a] Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

What is this power mentioned in these verses directed toward? What does that mean for our lives/what will we experience? Why is that important for us to understand?

Read Ephesians 1:16–20:

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

With our call to experience the resurrection life, we have a problem. What is it? Why is this our default position? What is the consequence of this if we do not pursue the remedy? Why is this so important for us in living out the life of the resurrection?

Read Romans 7:13–23:

¹³ Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷ So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³ but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

What is important for us to understand to experience the life of the resurrection? How do we live this out practically? What then will be the result for us?

Read John 20:11–31:

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic,^[a] “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”—and that he had said these things to her.

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews,^[b] Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin,^[c] was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe."²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

As we are led by Christ, what is available to us; and what is our call to assist others in living this out? Why is that so important for us to experience?

Read Matthew 20:16–20:

¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time

¹⁷ And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

A Mother's Request

²⁰ Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something.

What is our privilege as believers as we join Him in the resurrected life? How does this translate into us living this life out? Why?

Read Ephesians 2:1–10:

By Grace Through Faith

2 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³ among

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body^[a] and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.^[b]⁴ But^[c] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

As we live this out, what is our privilege regarding living in His forgiveness, which is available to all of us? Why is that important to us?

Read Romans 7:24–8:2:

²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

Life in the Spirit

8 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

^[a] ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you^[b] free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

To live this out, what is required on our part? How does this work practically, and what is the benefit we can expect?

Read Romans 6:1–22:

Dead to Sin, Alive to God

6 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self^[a] was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free^[b] from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.

¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Slaves to Righteousness

¹⁵ What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as

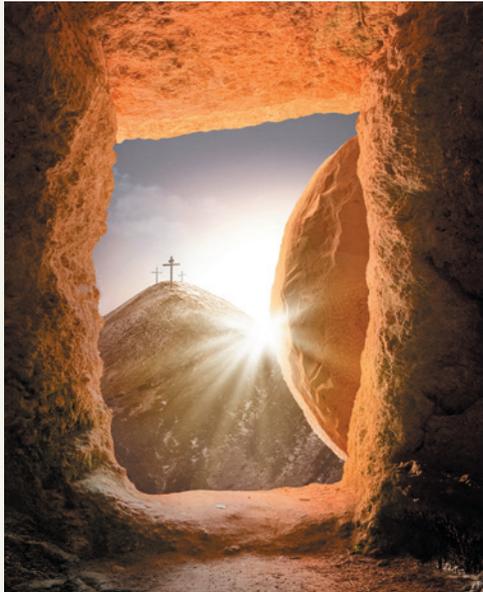
LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

obedient slaves,^[c] you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness.

²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

LESSON 2: OUR CHOICE OF LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES



**"He's raised us up,
resurrected us, and
placed us at the right
hand of the Father
with Him..."**

As we are called to live our life in Him, we can either live with Him in the Spirit and receive the resurrection life, or we can choose not to live in the Spirit but in the flesh where we will experience the consequences of that. What are those consequences? What then do those consequences mean to us? Why?

Read Romans 8:5-8:

⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

LESSON 2: OUR CHOICE OF LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Based upon the two following sets of verses, what does Christ state is His purpose, that He describes when He spoke the first time publicly? What does that mean to us? How does that translate into what we can expect for our lives? Why is this so important?

Read Luke 4:16–21:

Jesus Rejected at Nazareth

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

Read Isaiah 61:1–4:

The Year of the LORD'S Favor

61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;^[a]
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;^[b]
² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.^[c]
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

As we see in the following sets of verses, how we view the scriptures matters. What is the impact of us viewing scriptures as law? How then are things if we view scriptures as Spirit and allow Him to lead us and deliver to us the resurrection life? Why is this so critical to us experiencing the resurrection life? Why?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14–3:6:

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.

¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Ministers of the New Covenant

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our^[a] hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.^[b]

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

Read 2 Corinthians 3:16–18:

¹⁶ But when one^[a] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord^[b] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,^[c] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.^[d] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

From the following four verses, please respond: What are the requirements for us to be walking with Christ and receiving the resurrection life? What do these mean in our everyday life? What is the result if we meet these requirements? Why is this so important to living in the resurrection?

Read John 12:24–26:

²⁴ Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

Read John 14:12-14:

¹²Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

Read John 15:7-8:

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

Read John 17:20–23:

²⁰“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

If we live with Him in the Resurrection, what does God give us? What is the result for our sin nature? What then does that mean for our ability to live in the resurrection? Why?

Read Romans 8:9–11:

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus^[a] from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

What does Paul say about our life in the flesh versus life in the Spirit? If we are in the Spirit, what is He doing, and what are we doing? How does this work in our everyday lives?

Read Romans 8:12–13:

Heirs with Christ

¹² So then, brothers,^[a] we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

From the following two sets of verses, who qualifies to be blessed by God? What is the condition? What does that condition mean? How do we live it out? Why?

Read Psalm 128:1:

Blessed Is Everyone Who Feels the LORD

A Song of Ascents.

128 Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in his ways!

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

Read Psalm 19:7–9:

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect,^[a]
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules^[b] of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

What are the characteristics of living a spiritual life versus living a life in the natural? How do we experience this? Why?

Read Isaiah 11:2–4:

² And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

LESSON 2: HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

When we walk with Him, what privilege do we receive? What does that mean regarding how we live? Why is this so important for us to understand?

Read 2 Peter 1:3–4:

Confirm Your Calling and Election

³ His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to^[a] his own glory and excellence,^[b] ⁴ by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

How do we receive instruction from Him in the spiritual versus in the natural? What can we thus expect about the path that He will lead us onto? What does that mean to us in our everyday lives?

Read Psalm 16:7–11:

⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.^[a]

⁸ I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being^[b] rejoices;
my flesh also dwells secure.

¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,
or let your holy one see corruption.^[c]

¹¹ You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

LESSON 2:

HOW WE RECEIVE AND EXPERIENCE IN REALITY THESE PROMISES FOR US PERSONALLY

In order to receive His instruction, what is necessary about how we live with God? What is the difference between seeking the things of men versus the things of God? Why is this the requirement? What is the process for us to stay in that mode? Why?

Matthew 16:23–25:

²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life^[b] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION



How do we avoid neglecting so great a salvation? What is that great salvation? What will be the benefits for us joining this great salvation? What does God promise for us? Why is this important to our everyday lives?

Read Hebrews 2:1-4:

Warning Against Neglecting Salvation

2 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. ² For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, ³ how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, ⁴ while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

"Then as we have difficult issues of life, we begin to trust that He will bring resurrection resolutions because there's nothing too difficult for Him."

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

What are the roles of the Holy Spirit for us? How does He fulfill these roles? What is important for us to understand as we join Him in His roles for us? What are the benefits for us?

Read John 16:13–15:

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

What is God doing all the time for us? What is important for us regarding our listening and following what He is speaking? What happens if we do not have a heart to listen or decide to not follow Him? Why is this so important to live in the life of the resurrection?

Read Hebrews 3:7–8; 15–19:

A Rest for the People of God

⁷ Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says,

“Today, if you hear his voice,

⁸ do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,
on the day of testing in the wilderness,

¹⁵ As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷ And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸ And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹ So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

What is God waiting for? Why? What are we to wait for? Why? If we do meet these requirements, what then will the Spirit do for us? How are we to experience this?

Read Isaiah 30:18–23:

The LORD Will Be Gracious

¹⁸ Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,
and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;
blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹ For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you. ²⁰ And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹ And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, "This is the way, walk in it," when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²² Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, "Be gone!"

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

²³ And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures,

What are the roles of the Holy Spirit here? What then are the assurances for us (the benefits) if we join Him and receive His leading us? What do all these mean for us and our everyday lives?

Read Romans 8:26–39:

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because^[a] the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good,^[b] for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God's Everlasting Love

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be^[c] against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.^[d]³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Since God gave His only Son for us because He loved us, what does that mean for us? What does eternal life mean? How do we fully experience this?

Read John 3:15–18:

¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[a]

For God So Loved the World

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world,^[b] that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

What delights God? If we delight Him, what does He promise us? How do we experience that? Why is this truth so important for living the resurrected life?

Read Psalm 37:3–8:

- ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good;
dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.^[a]
- ⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
- ⁶ He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices!
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath!
Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

As we walk with God, what does He promise us? What does this mean to us, and how do we experience this?

Read Psalm 85:10–13:

- ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- ¹² Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

To experience this resurrection life, what must we understand about Christ and His role as the Good Shepherd? How do we then receive this?

Read John 10:10–11:

- ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

As we experience Him, what does He give us? How are we to receive this? Why is this so important to living out this life in a difficult world?

Read John 14:20–27:

²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³ Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

²⁵ “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ 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 have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

**What are we to avoid as our focus, our criteria for making decisions? Why?
What then is to be our focus and criteria for making decisions? Why?**

Read 1 Timothy 6:17–18:

¹⁷ As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

When do we lack wisdom? What then are we called to do? What does God promise? What can we then expect, and why is this so important to living out the resurrection life?

Read James 1:5–8:

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

LESSON 3:

ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN LEADING US INTO AND WE EXPERIENCING THE RESURRECTION

To live out the resurrection life, what must we know is true? How do we then experience this? What then can we expect as we live this out?

Read Ephesians 2:4–10:

⁴ But^[a] God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

