



LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION
COURSE WORKBOOK

Also used for
Retreat/Small Group Leader Guide

LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION

Retreat Leader Guide

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

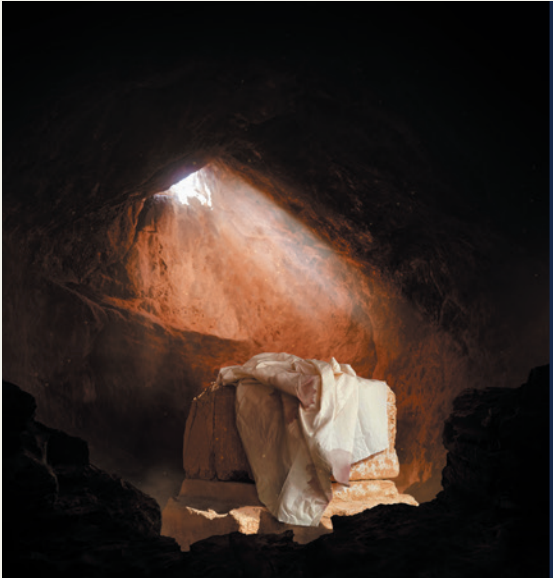


Lesson One:
What Is the Resurrection and Its Privileges? 2

Lesson Two:
Our Choice of Living in the Resurrection and Its Consequences 18

Lesson Three:
Role of the Holy Spirit in Leading Us Into and We Experiencing the Resurrection 38

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."

Welcome to our course, Living in the Resurrection. We know that Christ was resurrected, and that gives us an opportunity to have this full life, as He's inviting us to live with Him in the resurrection. What does that mean? What does that look like? Is it possible that you don't live in the resurrection as a believer? How do we live in that, and what's the benefit of that? This course is going to go into depth on each of these.

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?"

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

This is the story of Lazarus where Mary and Martha came to Jesus and said, *He's sick, would you come and heal him?* And Jesus' response was what? *Sure, I'll come.* Mary and Martha knew something. At this moment, there were two things that they understood.

1. He's the Messiah. And, of course, their viewpoint of that was still limited. The Jewish perspective of the Messiah was that He was going to rule on Earth—to conquer and set up Jewish governmental rule, and take over Earthly dominion.
2. They have seen Him and experienced Him doing supernatural, miraculous things, particularly healing. They've seen it a lot. Since their beloved brother, Lazarus, is sick, they went to Jesus and asked Him to heal him. They knew He has the power to do this, that He loved them and Lazarus, and expected Him to say yes, which He did.

But Jesus delayed and purposely did not go right away to heal their sick brother. He was not healed, and he dies. And not only is he dead, but he's been buried in the tomb for a day or two. So, it's not that Mary and Martha only waited a few hours for Jesus, they actually waited a week, at least.

Now think of Mary and Martha, who knew Jesus as the Healer who said He's coming to heal him. What's their perspective? They're disappointed that He didn't show up. They ask, *Why were you not here on time? You let us down. We still believe in you (kind of).* They still loved Him and believed in Him, but they were disappointed that it didn't happen. They were very confused. Further, we know that in a previous story when Martha was occupied with working to please Jesus and Mary sat at His feet in fellowship, that Jesus had honored Mary as having chosen the better thing—intimacy with Him over working for Him.

But, guess who doesn't come out and talk to Jesus when He finally arrives? Mary. She's mad. Though she had learned important things about Jesus, at this moment, it's now impacting her, and she's mad. Who does go out to talk to Him? Martha, she was also not happy and confused, but still had a heart to dialogue with Jesus over this situation, which is a reinforcement of how wonderful it is to learn to walk with Jesus, as Martha had.

Jesus makes an amazing statement to Martha when she greets Him. Martha is wondering, *What happened? Lazarus is dead, what happened? Why weren't You here since we know that You could have healed him? And You said You would. What happened?*

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

Jesus doesn't answer that question. What does He say? I'm the resurrection and the life, if you believe that, you'll live, and if you live, you will have this amazing life. And then He asked her a question, *Do you believe this?* He doesn't go into a lengthy discussion. He's not really explaining much to her, He's just making a statement, which is why this study is so critical—it's the essence of the life we have available to us. He's trying to make a statement upon which He's going to build—to further explain and demonstrate.

What did He say about resurrection in life? *I am the resurrection.* He doesn't describe the resurrection as an act separate from Him—it is Him and is embodied in Him. This is profound for our understanding as we walk with Him and experience the life of the resurrection—it is Him. *I am the resurrection and the life.* And then He asks her if she believes this. He is not asking her if she believes in the resurrection, but rather, if she believes He is the resurrection and the life. He puts it right back to her, and she said, Well, I guess so. I'm willing to learn this. This leads us to our key question: Are we willing to learn 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 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 might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

This power that is directed toward you is the power that raised Christ from the dead, the resurrection. It's even more than that. He said that not only did the Father resurrect Him, but He put Him where? Seated at His right hand, where it is finished; and the life is now available in the throne room with God, which is where we also have the privilege of joining.

As you think of any power on Earth, what's the greatest power there is? The resurrection. What does the resurrection do? It brings life from death. What does that mean? Life is gone. When something is dead, life is gone. Resurrection does what? It raises, brings back, restores the fullness of life. Where does it restore it? At the right hand of the Father.

In this prayer, may you experience that power that's directed toward who? Those of us who believe—who are willing, like Martha, to believe this. This goes back to Jesus' question, *Do you believe it?* That's what this study is all about—to help us understand the depth of it. It will also be the question He's going to ask us at the end of this—*Do you believe it?* Are we experiencing this? This power is directed toward each of us—to our life situations now. The dead things, the ruined things, the difficult things are going to be raised back to the life of the resurrection—which is in Him. This is a critical clue. You have to be in Him to experience Him and that power, which is directed toward you, that's available to you. It is the greatest power on Earth.

As we consider this, we must also understand the problem (and thus, the remedy) that we have in relation to being with Him at the right hand of the Father where we can then experience the resurrected life.

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

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

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.

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's the problem? There's a war going on inside, and it's constant. Paul says, *The thing I don't want to do, I do. The thing I do want to do, I don't.* He's wavering between the flesh and the Spirit—a real battle. He says, *I'm doing it, but it's not me. It's in me—the nature.* Our nature defaults to this position of the flesh or the carnal. The flesh is the sin nature, the self-nature. Paul says he tries to overcome this problem with his own efforts—but cannot because of the default nature of the flesh which brings failure. *The things I know I shouldn't be doing, I do. The things I would like to do, I don't.* He said of anybody that he has a heart to correct this problem. He has the ultimate desire and wants victory and to fully serve God with right living.

His failure is not related to him choosing to reject it all; or saying it doesn't matter to him; rather—he really wants to please God. He said, *I try, I try, I try, I try, and I can't do it,* because the law of the sin nature, which doesn't ever give him the power to gain victory. You can't do it. It's not because you don't want to, but because of the nature within you. We default to this position and cannot overcome it. It's not possible.

He says in Romans 7:24: *O wretched man, am I? I'm in a pickle, I'm in an awful situation that I cannot get out of on my own. Who can save me from this terrible situation?* The situation is what? It's impossible in your nature to have victory. It's

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

not possible on your own. That's a bind—you want to, but you can't. Who can save you from this awful situation? If there was nothing that could help, what would Paul have done? He would have stopped writing. That would have been the end of Romans. *Well, everybody, that's it, folks. There's nothing you can do—good luck to you. But hey, you have a ticket to heaven.* That would have been his conclusion. Nothing. Fortunately, he said, there is an answer.

Romans 7:25 reads, *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 served the law of sin, the default of the sin nature, the self. However, he said, thank goodness the answer is that God is going to deliver me from this body of death—the very profound understanding of the resurrection which brings life from death.* The answer is Jesus. He didn't say the answer is that you've got to do X, Y, and Z. He just said, thank goodness the answer is Jesus. Ok, now we know something.

What did Jesus say to Martha? *I am the resurrection and the life.* The answer is that He is the resurrection and the life. That's the answer. But since your default is that you go back to the flesh, there's something you have to learn about this to experience it. You still know your default, even if you said Jesus is the answer—you are still stuck with the problem. The answer is Christ. You will have to learn to receive the life of Christ—the resurrection.

**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,

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

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.

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?

The disciples and the women with whom Jesus discipled and explained truth to were all thinking Jesus was the Messiah who was going to lead them to conquer and rule on Earth as a nation or power. But what happened to their Messiah? He died. He had explained this to them, but they never received it. They never questioned further what was going to happen next. Instead, they kept saying, and Peter specifically said, what? *We're not going to let that happen to You. What You're saying now, we don't buy it.* And then He died, and they forgot everything.

As far as they were concerned, they had been following the Messiah for three years now. But at this point, this understanding is what? It's done, it's over, and it's worthless. *We followed our Messiah with the expectation of earthly rule but that's now gone.* Not only is that gone, but they also said they were afraid. What were they afraid of? *The Jews killed Christ, and they know we were with Him. They're coming after us. We have to figure this out.* They're completely discouraged and have lost, in essence, hope and all of their expectation of what they thought was going to be. And not only that, but they're also afraid.

Then Christ appears to Mary Magdalene. Think about what she sees. It's Jesus living again in a body. What's He doing? He's talking, He's relating to her and talking back and forth. *Go tell the others I've been raised again.* She does what He asks and goes to tell the others. They heard it, but did that convince them? It did not. They're huddling back in the upper room where they're afraid and discussing what they are going to do now that Jesus is gone. They didn't even process what Mary had told them. They weren't saying, *Well, that's cool. I hope He appears to us. Hey, Mary, do you know where He's at?* John and Peter had even gone to the tomb and found it empty except for the grave clothes, but their interpretation was that somebody took His body. It's not real yet—they're behind closed doors, and what does Jesus do? He shows up and appears through a door.

What does this tell you about the resurrection supernatural? That he has got the ability to be both in the spiritual realm and in the physical realm. He said, *Here, look at Me now.* Remember, when He was sent to His death, He was beaten. Isaiah says He was beaten to the point of not even being recognizable, which means severe wounds with welts all over His body. How does He look now? All His wounds have been healed—just the scars on His hands, feet, and side remain. Think about that implication of that. Everything else has been healed, but He still carries the scars. They obviously could have been healed, but why weren't they? This was proof for the disciples and for us—to remind us of the reason we can live in the resurrection is based upon what He did for us all by His own nature. When we die and go to see Him, we'll see those same things. *Your entry, your opportunity to be with Me in eternity is because of what I did for you, and you're going to remember that and see it.*

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

He then says to His disciples, *Shalom. As God sent Me, I'm now sending you.* Where is He when He is saying this? He's in the resurrection. You also get to be in that same place. He is sending you from that same place. He died, but He's been resurrected. He says, *I am the resurrection and the life.* He's in the life of the resurrection, experiencing the power of the resurrection—in the now. So, does Christ ever have to go back and redo the death? No, that's over, that's been completed. He says life is in the resurrection. That's where He is at. Now, moving forward for all of us believers, including His disciples, none of us have to go to death. He did it for us. Our lives get to be in the resurrection with the privileges of the resurrection power.

As He breathed upon the Spirit—which will not be received until Pentecost—Christ was portraying an important truth of this life. *The Spirit is coming from who I am—it is God; it's life; It's My life, I'm breathing My life into you.* All of God is going to be breathed into this life. The resurrected life is going to be breathed into you. That's what He's trying to say when we look at life as natural and believe we are going to fail to live the life that God wants—to please God—because we can't, even with the best of intentions. But this powerful life of the Spirit can be fully realized as we live in the life of the resurrection—His life in us through the Holy Spirit.

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.

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

He says the authority is in the Kingdom, which we understand is a spiritual authority and is superior to the world, its circumstances, and our struggle in the flesh. Paul described it—you're stuck with the flesh nature. You're stuck in a world controlled by the enemy. But Christ said, *In My Kingdom, I have all the authority*—the authority of what? The resurrection. If He would have just gone to His death and said, *I've taken the penalty and you will never see Me again—just tell everybody I died for them*—what would that mean? Am I supposed to believe that? Is there any benefit to that? You get to go to heaven, perhaps, but doubt it since there is not much benefit that you can see. No, Christ said, *I'm living, and through the resurrection, all the power and authority has been given to Me, which now I'm going to give that to you*. Your role is to do what? Make disciples, and teach them to experience the life of the resurrection. Furthermore, this will also do what? It will make other disciples who learn to live in the resurrection. That's what Jesus is trying to demonstrate. *I am the resurrection and the life. I'm not going to tell you about the resurrection. I'm going to show you the resurrection. I am the resurrection, and you'll experience My authority and power when you live in the resurrection. Do you have a heart to go?* Not only are supposed to live in it, but He wants you to have others join that process themselves. It's not learning theology—a doctrine. No, He wants to make sure you're experiencing the life of it. Are you experiencing the life of it—not the knowledge of it—the life of it?

Most Christians don't get past the cross. They understand Jesus died for us. He's taken our sins, and we get to go to heaven. They just never get past the cross. They don't get to the resurrection—which is where the beauty of the powerful life is.

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

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 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.

You were separated from Him—as all people are. But when you believed in Him, what did He do? He took you and raised you. What does the word *raise* mean? Resurrected. We're already resurrected. Though our bodies will be resurrected at the end, we're resurrected right now, the moment we received Him. He has resurrected you, and you are seated next to Him in the heavenly place at the right hand of the Father, where Christ is seated. We're in both places—in the world and in heavenly places (spirit realm). The life of the resurrection is now. We have been resurrected. We are seated with Him at the right hand, so the key question that

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

Paul raises before us all is: *How do I live? How do I live in the power of resurrection? Particularly in light of the fact that I know that I tend to default back to the natural (the law of the sin nature). How do I stay there and experience the life of the resurrection?* Christ says, I've already done it. In a sense, that means we do not need to work hard to experience it. It's available to us all the time through Him.

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.

Now that you've received Christ, there is no condemnation. (See our course, Life in Forgiveness.) Paul said that sin is his problem. He's still stuck with that self-nature that defaults to the flesh, opposite of living in God and in His resurrection power. The good news is that we, too, already have been resurrected and have been freed from sin and death. At this point, this brings up an interesting question, *Why then do I still struggle?* Paul told us we're going to struggle. These statements don't seem to hold together. If we have been set free, then shouldn't we be free? And if we are living in the resurrection, doesn't that take care of the problem? There is more to learn to truly experience this life of the resurrection.

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 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

LESSON 1: WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

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.

You have been set free from sin if you've died with them. He's giving us a little bit of an insight here: You have the possibility of living in the resurrection. Yes, you have been set free from sin, which gives you the possibility to live in the resurrection. This is past tense, so the question remains, and we need to go farther into the answer.

It reiterates Jesus is in the resurrection; His life is in the resurrection. He completed the entry into the resurrection once and for all. It was a done deal when He went to His death. But He's now living in the resurrection. The life is in the resurrection. Then He says, *Here's the answer to your question, "If I've been set free from sin, why do I still struggle with sin?" Because you have a choice to make. And that is whoever you become a slave to, that's who you wind up serving and experiencing.*

The implication is dependent upon whom you become a slave to—either you can become a slave to self or you can become a slave to Christ. You have been set free, but because of your nature to experience it, you have to decide who you're going to serve. The aspect of freedom is an enigma. You wonder, *If I'm going to get freedom, I must become a slave. I do the opposite if I want to seek my own freedom. I actually go back to bondage. I don't experience it because I'm not a slave to righteousness but a slave to self—my daily choice now.*

Unfortunately, because of your nature, you have to make a choice. But your default is what? The flesh. It's not a neutral choice. It's not that you get up in the morning and say, *I'll decide who I'm going to serve today.* In the absence of serving Christ and becoming a slave to Christ, you become a slave to self and continue

LESSON 1:

WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND ITS PRIVILEGES?

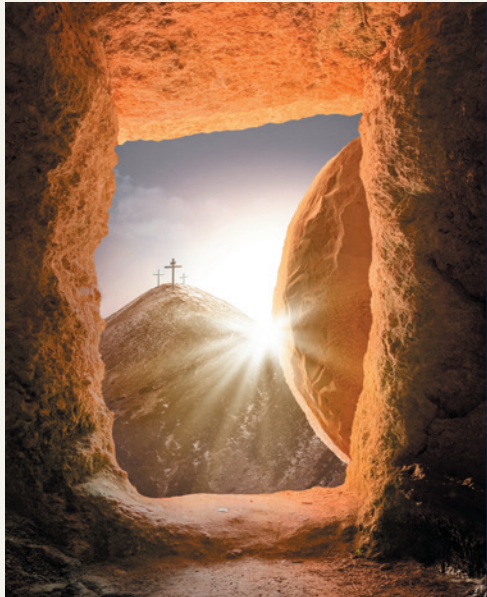
to be in bondage, not experiencing freedom in the life of God while stuck in the sinful place of the heaviness of life. If, however, you choose to become a slave to righteousness, to Christ, you will then experience the freedom available to each of us.

He then says, *You have been set free. You made the choice to become My slave. Having done that, there's fruit. The fruit is holiness. Fruit is sanctification. Fruit is what I'm going to do for you by giving you the resurrected life; overcome and be victorious.* This is all because of what? Being a slave of Christ, to have the life of Christ. We have learned what Paul wrote—*I try, I try, I try. I can't do it. I can't get there.* Holiness isn't something you do. It's something you receive. How? The life of the resurrection.

Now that we understand this, what is our choice? To become His slave, we have to surrender our will to His. There's no other way. If you want the resurrected life, you must become His servant. When you become a servant, you get it all. When you choose to live in Him, surrendering to Him, becoming His slave, you receive the blessed life. You cannot attain it. You must receive it.



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 continue in our course, Living in the Resurrection, we concentrate on the life of the resurrection, the statement made by Jesus, *I am the resurrection and the life*. He's living in the resurrection because that's where His life is, and we are the ones to receive what He then gives us. He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and we actually have joined Him there. He's raised us up, resurrected us, and placed us at the right hand of the Father with Him, which means we have the opportunity to live in both places. Yes, we live on Earth in the world, but we also are living in heaven, with Him, raised up and resurrected. We have a choice to live there. We are called to overcome our problem of defaulting to the flesh and struggle by becoming a slave to Christ, surrendering our will and then letting Him live His life through us.

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

This explains things at an even deeper level. To choose to become a slave depends on where we set our mind: on the flesh or on the Spirit. What is the flesh? Pursuing our own will in all things, and even as Paul described it, this includes trying to live right by doing things on our own. *I'd like to overcome my addiction. I'd like to stop being angry. I'd like to stop being fearful. I'd like to be more patient. I'd like to be more loving. I try. I try. I try.* But you can't do it because you're stuck with the failure of that in the flesh. There's a reason for that. Paul said that when you set your mind on the flesh or live in the flesh, there are three things that happen:

1. Death—shunning the Spirit as if He is dead—not active or living. He says He brought us into the resurrected life—life, His life, power. What happens to that life when you go to the flesh? Death. You go back to death, putting to death that life. Spiritually, you do have the Holy Spirit, but you're acting and functioning as if He's dead because there is absence of His life.
2. When you have the absence of life, you are acting like a practical atheist, and you're at enmity against God. Can He bless you when you're dead? No. You're working against Him because you've said, *I'm going to go my own way now.* This is really important as we further understand what Paul says. We'd like to be good, but that doesn't count, and we wind up failing. We are at enmity against God. We can't succeed. We want to, but we can't.
3. You cannot please God. It is not possible, since what pleases Him is for Him to give you the resurrected life, but He cannot. That's the seriousness of the issue. It's a serious consequence. Ultimately, either you are going to live the resurrected life or you are dead. It is that simple. Without living in this life of resurrection, we default to flesh, which means death, enmity against God, and an inability to please God.

LESSON 2:

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

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."

This is Jesus's first public statement. Jesus said, *This is what I've come to do, and it's been fulfilled.* He is explaining the fullness that He is the resurrection and the life. *I'm going to give you that life. That's what I've come to do.* Then, we are to set our minds on the things of the Spirit.

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.

What's on the Spirit mind is the good news. Now for us, what's the good news? The Kingdom of God is here now. Today He is ready to give you the resurrected life. When? Now. That's the good news, always and now. As you understand this, you might realize that you haven't been living the resurrected life, that you have problems. Some people might even have serious problems, deep financial issues, deep business issues, deep relationship issues where they're not getting along with their spouse or kids or bosses. As far as they're concerned, you are a mess, and are

LESSON 2:

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

going to experience difficulty getting all or any of these resolved. The good news is today, He can do this now, because nothing of the past, none of the difficulties prevent Him from delivering resolutions and a life that is filled with goodness for you. How about today? Let Him do this. Let Him give this to you now. No matter how deep the problem is, it will be resolved, and you will experience the fullness of the resurrected life.

He then said He came to bind up the brokenhearted. Why are you brokenhearted? Because you have made mistakes. We all live in a world that's full of junk and problems and there are a number of people whose hearts are completely shattered. They've been abused, or experienced awful things, or have been involved in a series of mistakes that leave their heart in pieces. They thought life was going to be better and are resigned to believing that life will never improve. Christ says, *I've come to heal that. To take you to a place where you can thrive and be excited about life. I can fix it all.* Remember, no matter how hard we try, we cannot do it on our own. Believe His way is best and none better and trust His resurrected life.

He further states that He has come to proclaim liberty to the captives and open up prisons to those who are bound. We're all captive to various things—thought-life patterns, addictions, things that move us into anger, into fear, into worry, into oppression. We're in prison to that. We've tried to get out of it, but we can't. And so again, while we're stuck, He says, *How about if I free you from that. It's not that I am going to help you manage it better. It's that I release you completely to overcome and fully enjoy freedom.*

He goes on to reveal something about our sadness and heaviness. We're in mourning, in sadness. We've lost something. We don't understand this. We've made a ruin of our life, turned everything into ashes, and are living in a heavy sadness. There's is disappointment with no expectation that it really can get better. It's not that you don't experience some good things, but you know that the bad stuff is going to happen or that your issues are never going to get resolved. But He says, *I can make beauty from ashes. I can turn that mourning into gladness where you're excited, you're happy. Not just managing it and putting up with it, but having true joy in the resurrected life.*

He then finishes by saying that what has been ruined (often by us trying to manage our own life), He's going to rebuild and restore. The things that we've lost, the things that are ruined will be restored and made exceptional.

What is the difference between setting your mind on the flesh and setting your mind on the Spirit? With the Spirit there is hope. Why? Because Jesus is going to do all these wonderful things on our behalf to give us the life of the resurrection. I am the resurrection and the life, and as you walk with Me, you will experience this life,

LESSON 2:

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

because that is the life of resurrection. It's not some spiritual nirvana, but it is the resurrected life that is the grand life that you receive as you set your mind to it.

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

The Spirit gives the resurrected life, not the letter of the law, which again is referring to the scriptures. But what if you approach it as law? You feel you have to keep it, do it, and perform to it. When you approach it that way, what does it do to you? It kills you. It stops the resurrected life. It's putting you back into death where there's nothing, and it is not possible to receive the resurrected life—you are dead, at enmity against God, and cannot please Him. You either are going to have the beautiful life or you're dead—doing nothing. He said that if you're working at it yourself and looking at scripture as law, you're basically going right back to your death. It's worthless. Rather, if you live in the Spirit, it will give you life.

The purpose is for you to be the fragrance of Christ. Think of how simple and beautiful this is: If someone wearing perfume comes into the room, what do you notice? The fragrance. It is enjoyable and stimulating. You pay attention. The essence of our life should bring a noticeable difference to everyone around us. They should be able to tell that there's something beautiful that is our life. They would like to know more about what the difference is about us. Who's the fragrance? You. Not only are you the fragrance, but you're the epistle, the letter that is being written. As we receive the letter—the Bible—in the Spirit, we can live out the life that He gives us—not as law but as life. How does this happen? We set our mind on the Spirit, and then are a receiver of the life that is revealed. You serve as the fragrance, and you serve as the epistle. In order for that to happen, where do you have to be? Living the resurrected life. Why? It's a spiritual thing. Set your mind on that. If you're setting your mind on the Spirit, by definition, you're in a receiving mode because it's His life that He is giving to you.

Who is the resurrection and the life? He is the resurrection and the life. It's not separate. How do you get those? Stay with Him—He will give it to you, and you will experience it. When you are the fragrance and the epistle, you'll know that you're experiencing it.

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.

LESSON 2:

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

You're going to be receiving the resurrected life. How does it come? Glory to glory? Step by step? Month by month? Year by year? Will you be receiving that resurrected life when you're 75 years old, 85 years old, or 90 years old? Yes. You will continue to receive it. You don't receive everything the day you believe. Rather, Christ is going to metamorphize you—caterpillar to butterfly—and you will truly experience the metamorphosis. Can the butterfly go back to being a caterpillar? No, because it's nature has changed.

He's saying the life is real. It's the life, the transformation. You will be transformed. This will come step by step by step. So, enjoy the walk. Don't fret. This is the very reason no one has the right to judge you. Your step of the resurrected life may be different than theirs. Maybe something that's happened to someone else hasn't yet happened to you. Do you have a right to say you should do that, too? No, you are on your own path. The only question that should be asked is: Are you living the resurrected life? We all will know the answer because we'll smell the lovely fragrance and can see it in our attitude. It's simple, really. We, as the body, are going to do what? Encourage and stimulate each other to live the resurrected life. We will do so without judgment. The important thing is that you're living the resurrected life and know where you are in the resurrected life. We all will experience freedom, because where the Spirit of the Lord is, there's freedom to be an indicator of the resurrected life.

Look closely at the order of these verses. He didn't put verse 17 after 18, which would mean that you'd need to be metamorphized step by step by step before you would receive freedom. *As soon as I get all that together, I'll get freedom.* No. When you're in the resurrected life, one of the indicators while you're being transformed is freedom. It is not about the difficulty of our circumstances—rather are you enjoying the walk? You will have unresolved issues—difficult issues—but if you're in the resurrected life, which is going to transform you step by step by step and not require you to be perfect, you will be experiencing freedom and joy by definition.

So, freedom is really the entry into the resurrection life.

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

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.

The scripture is so fantastic. He says, *I know you would enjoy having the resurrected life*, but in order to do that, where do you have to be? You've got to be with Him. There's no other way. You've got to come and be with Him. And if you're with Him, you'll experience the life. But, there is a specific way to be with Him. You've got to surrender your will. You're going to have to die to self, deny self, and follow Him. Once this is done, you will see the beauty He has for you when you receive all of Him, not only certain elements. If you walk with Him, He's going to give it to you. If you don't, you default back to the flesh, and He can't give it to you. It's that simple.

Read John 14:12–14:

¹² "Truly, 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. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me^[a] anything in my name, I will do it.

LESSON 2:

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

If you walk with Him, what's going to happen? You will experience the supernatural. He talks about greater works—but *greater* does not mean magnitude—as there is no greater work than the resurrection. No. It's greater because we're no longer limited. All of us who have the Spirit within us, who are walking with Him, will experience the supernatural, resurrected life. How many supernatural works are going to be done? An incredible number of works. That's what He means when He says *greater*. We all are going to be doing these works. Why? We have Him in us. What is this resurrected life of the supernatural? Things will happen around you, through you, and with you. You will experience—in your real circumstances (which is why difficulties need not bother us)—becoming the fragrance, the epistle—bearing witness to the life of God.

Read John 15:7–8:

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By 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

If you are abiding in Him, living out His life—He is the life—and His words, what He's going to speak to you and give you is to abide where? In you. It is then that you will start to understand that you can declare and pray that it will be done, and it will. You'll start seeing the resurrected life play out in real stuff, which is described back in Isaiah 61. All these things will begin to happen.

When all of this comes about, what will that do for your heart? It'll thrill your heart because you're part of the resurrection life—where lots of exciting things are happening, and difficult things are being overcome. You're experiencing God's work in your life and, it is playing out through you. You're the fragrance and the epistle of that life, and it is a very exciting place to be.

As you experience difficulty—which Jesus said, you're going to have issues and problems—your view is to acknowledge that you are in the resurrection and know that the issues are going to be overcome. You move from the flesh—which is seeing a problem with no resolution, where there is struggle, struggle, struggle—to the life of the resurrection, where instead you wonder how God's going to handle this. You wonder what the resurrected life is going to look like in this situation. You change from sorrow, sadness, and fear to excitement—even when you're in the middle of it. He never said that this was going to be too difficult for Him.

We will experience the answers to our prayers, that we hear God speak—delivering the resurrected life in our life. The resurrection is the most powerful thing there is, and you get to be part of that. It doesn't matter what you have thrown at you. Get excited about life, the beauty of it, and the sharing of it so that when the supernatural happens, it happens for you.

Once we experience the resurrected life, what are we to do? Share it. When you witness the supernatural of the resurrected life happening for others, and you, too, are living in the resurrection, what should you know? That it is going to happen for you, too. You can hardly wait to see what's going to happen in your life, and then you can stimulate each other with your testimonies. Why? You're the fragrance, you're the epistle. People will take notice and hopefully say, *Is that possible for me?* And the answer is, *yes*. It's really simple living the resurrection.

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.

Think how simple this is. Jesus said that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one, and He prays that during our lifetime we will become *one with Us*. But where? Where He lives in the resurrection. His life is intended for you to become one and unified with Him. That's the life He's praying and willing to give you. And you're going to experience it by becoming *one in harmony and unity with Us, walking with Me*. His heart is to give it away. And He's always available. Come and join Him in oneness by becoming a slave to Him and then receiving the benefits. That's the beautiful thing. We're in unity with the Trinity; we're in agreement with His purpose, His intent, His essence—the supernatural life. His life is our life.

LESSON 2:

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

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:

⁹You, 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. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If 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.

We've overcomplicated that verse, it's actually fairly straightforward. What did He just say to us? If God lives in you, the Spirit of Christ and therefore the resurrection power is in us, is ours. If you live in Christ, you have it. The resurrection, the power of the resurrection, the life of the resurrection, which bring you that life into your mortal life. It replaces the sin nature, the flesh, with His nature—the resurrection. Living in us.

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.

Don't think for a moment that you are stuck with the flesh. You are not indebted or obligated to live according to the flesh. We need to flip our thinking. Christian churches tend to say that we are sinners and are going to fail, but at least we get to go to heaven. They tell us to try really hard to get better. If you listen carefully to most sermons, ultimately that's what their message is. You better do this, you better do that. Paul says, *You are to stop thinking that way. You're not obligated to failure, but rather you can have the life promised to you.*

In Romans 8:14, Paul says, *If you're truly a child of God, live in this life, and you will be led by the Spirit of God as a child of God.* You're in the family, you're living the resurrected life being led by the Holy Spirit because you've surrendered. You've decided that you are not going to try in the flesh. You are going to go and surrender your will to Him and let Him lead you into the resurrected life.

It implies that as a child of God, by definition, you will be living the resurrected life. Why? That's our life. His place for us is in the resurrected life. When you walk through His door and you realize you're His child because you have the privilege of coming in, you get the resurrected life. It is normal to live that way and experience that. He says in Romans 8:16 that He's going to keep telling you, bearing witness that you are His child, who is to live the resurrected life. *Why then don't you come and live that life? I have it for you. Come on. You're My kid. You're not obligated any longer to think you have to live a life of failure. I can give you this life all the time. Every time. Live with Me.*

LESSON 2:

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

**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 Fears the LORD

A Song of Ascents.

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

Blessed is everyone. Who does that include? The whole family. It's not a demarcation where some people get it and some people don't. Everyone can have it—although there is a condition. Let's find out what that is.

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.

LESSON 2:

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

As you look at that list, it's saying, *My truth, my instruction, my doctrine, is all true*. Whenever you see a list in the Hebrew, whatever is included in that list is part of that list and describes what that list is. What's in the middle of that list? The fear of the Lord. Everything else is instruction, but instruction has great benefits and is true. What does that imply that the fear of the Lord is? What He speaks to you has great benefits and is absolutely true. You are to understand and believe and have settled that whatever He says is true and real. We may not understand it yet as true or we might not have experienced it as true, but it's true. One thing He said is that if you surrender your life to Him, you will have the resurrected life. Therefore, if you said you believe that what He says is true, then you would say that you expect to live that way.

The one condition is that you have to surrender your life. You've got to become His slave. You must ask Him to help you become His slave. Why? Because it's true. If you didn't have the fear of the Lord, what would you do? What would you say? That it doesn't matter. That it's not possible. That you don't see anybody living the resurrected life. That it's all spiritual baloney. That's not fearing the Lord, because you haven't looked at what is said and decide that you'd like to experience that. You must ask for help to walk into that blessed place of the resurrection life.

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.

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

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
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.

He says, *Now that you're here with Me, I'm going to give you this fantastic life. You're My child, and I committed to give you this life. It's beautiful.* This is given through a spiritual process. It's the Spirit who gives us this life. As we learned about the fear of the Lord, this is not figuring things out in our logic and natural thinking. It's about walking in the spiritual resurrected life that He's going to give us. With the fear of the Lord, we are saying that we understand and are willing to receive it—to understand that in the spiritual way, not in a logical way on our own. That's how we are going to be led by the Spirit—by truly believing that. It is through the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, and knowledge. He will lead us so we understand, know, receive, and then follow Him onto His path of the resurrected life that is meant for us. It will not be what our eyes see or determine in the natural but through the spiritual process of hearing, receiving, understanding.

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

LESSON 2:

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

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.

Through walking with Him, you actually receive His life. His divine nature is transferred to you. You're a participant of this. The life that He has is now yours, and He transfers it to you, which is what you will experience. Why? Because you have the desire to walk in the Spirit, fear the Lord, and believe it. Ask Him to give to you that life promised. In Psalm 128, it says: *Blessed are you who fear the Lord and walk in His ways.* Let's look at what it means to walk in His ways.

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

You will receive your instruction from Him, even in the night watches, while you're sleeping, He's still instructing you. He is still going to give you wisdom and insight, and you can keep receiving His instruction. *Live with Me, stay in My path which offers pleasures ever more because I'm giving you this life. Ever more, It'll be pleasant.* This does not mean you won't have difficulty. Rather, His life will bring resolution, and it will be spectacular, the most pleasant. You can take interest in seeing how God works out your life. He does this by offering the resurrected life. You won't be able to wait to see the difference!

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

If you become a slave, what do you find? The resurrected life. Remember what He said to Peter, *I know you spoke and acted out of a good intention, but get behind me, Satan, because you don't have the things of God, or the Spirit on your mind. Rather you have the things of the flesh... things that you on your own have decided and what you thought was a good idea.* He calls it evil. Get behind me, Satan, He says. Why does He say this? Because Peter didn't process with Him what Jesus told him—that He was going to die and then be resurrected. Peter never asked Him what that meant. Peter just made a declaration.

Jesus went on to say, *Let Me help you understand this in order to live the life that I'm giving you. You must deny yourself. Surrender to My will. Surrender your will to Me fully, take up the cross and stand on what I've done for you when I was put to death. I overcame sin. I overcame the enemy, and I have victory over sin and the enemy and took away the requirement for you to be perfect. I've given you a remedy for having life with Me—the resurrection life; stand on that and believe that and then follow Me.* If you think about truly denying self, it doesn't take long. Believing what He did on the cross doesn't take long. It's following Him in the resurrection that takes time.

I'm in the resurrection. What I need you to do is get to that My path where I deliver to you this resurrected life. Spend all your time following Me. If you go back to self and you've stopped following, remember that is not a permanent choice. You have to do it all the time. He asks if you have a heart to go. Are you willing to go? Or do you have the things in mind that are the things of men rather than His things? What He is going to tell you may be different than what man says to you. So don't pretend to know or think that you know. He will speak it to you, and you receive it, which is the fear of the Lord. Once you understand that, you will still have questions. *What about this person who just hurt me? You're asking me to go to forgiveness? I'm having a hard time with it, but I'll stay with You so that You can lead me into that truth.* This is the resurrected life. You believe it and are willing to walk into it.

As we finish this lesson, we've talked about now how to walk into and remain in the resurrected life. It's surrendering your life. It's following Him. It's fear of the Lord. It is having a heart to go and letting Him give us the very life promised. Do you have a heart to receive it? It's a spiritual thing. It's in the spiritual realm, which is where the resurrection is being lived out. Set your things on the heart of the Spirit, which is what Isaiah 61 spoke, *I want to give you freedom. I want to take you out of prison. I want to restore your heart. I want to rebuild your life.* The good news is that He can do it now regardless of your situation. God says, *None of that matters to Me. How about now? I will give you that resurrected life. Let's go today.*

LESSON 3:

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



"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."

As we have reached our third and final lesson in the course, Living in the Resurrection, let's summarize our lessons so far. Jesus said, *I am the resurrection and the life*. The simplicity of it is that in order for us to experience this life, we have to be with Him and live with Him because He wants to deliver this life to us. The choice we have is whether or not we struggle with the flesh. Paul described this to us as trying and trying and trying to live the good life, but he fails because of the sin nature and the flesh, and he can't get there, particularly if we read the Bible as law. It actually puts us to death. But if we live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and put our minds on the Spirit (Isaiah 61), we will experience all the beautiful things of freedom, restoration, rebuilding, beauty for ashes—the things of His life given to us as we are "in" Him. 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. We also learned in Psalm 128 that everyone (not just some) who fears the Lord believes that what He has to say is true and is blessed. We then walk in all His ways and following Him—denying self and standing on what He fulfilled at the cross—into His resurrection life for us. In this lesson, we will continue our discussion of what it means to be blessed as we fear the Lord and walk in His ways.

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.

LESSON 3:

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

We are called to not neglect “such a great salvation.” What is salvation? It's the resurrected life. Don't neglect the opportunity to live in the resurrected life. Salvation is that life which brings wholeness to all of our life. It's not just a ticket to heaven; it's living the resurrected life now. So, how would you neglect it? By walking in the flesh. By not paying attention to it. You go back to the flesh and decide to live your own life your own way. Even though you acknowledge that it would be nice if the resurrected life was available to you, you do not pay any attention to it. We are called to have a heart to follow God into this promised resurrection life. Thus, we pay attention, surrender our will, and stay in the life of Christ by following Him and His will.

There is wonderful evidence of this resurrected life that God will demonstrate in our real circumstances that will bear witness to this life. We will experience as a normal part of our lives signs and wonders and various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to God's will. In the Greek, these words say miracles, miracles, and more miracles and the phenomenal gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are going to be worked through you. Gifts of faith, knowledge, wisdom, miracles, etc., with which you're going to assist each other. You'll see the Holy Spirit at work for the purpose of living the resurrected life. God will deliver as evidence of the truth of this great salvation. Why? Because He is the resurrection, and He needs you to be with Him in the resurrection. If you're there together, you will experience the supernatural, which He will bear witness to. If you're not there, He'd still like to do them, but He can't bear witness by Himself. He needs you to decide to follow 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.

Let's start with the end of this truth. The Spirit is going to transfer by "declaring" to us the life of Christ. *Declaring* means He's going to speak His promises, His instructions, His truth to you. He's going to speak His word, which we learned is superior to any circumstances we have. He can make things happen. Who is speaking? Christ. So, the Spirit is going to transfer and declare all that is Christ's (and He has it all). Where is Christ? In the resurrection with all the powers of the resurrection, all the life of the resurrection. The Spirit's role specifically is to transfer that to you. The Spirit fulfills this role by:

1. Guiding you into all truth. We are to know the truth about all things related to our lives, our situations. We can be assured that He will not just have us study things to learn truth, but rather that He will lead us onto His path, the path in the resurrection where we will receive the life of the resurrection. There will be clarity and understanding, and we'll be led into truth, His way. He'll guide us into all truth, and He's going to speak which means we will be in the resurrection.

LESSON 3:

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

2. He's going to tell you things to come. We need to understand that He is not telling our fortune but rather He is alerting us to an important new path and for us to pay attention. Heads up, something's coming. Be alert. This is what we call the *Red Dress Experience*. If, for instance, you go to a restaurant and are told there's going to be a lady in a bright red dress who will come over and say something to you, and that you need to listen to her, what will you do when you get to the restaurant? Look for the lady with the bright red dress. And when she says something, pay attention. That's how it works with the Holy Spirit revealing things to come—pay attention. Be alert. Something is coming up, and He needs to lead you onto a new path, so enjoy the walk with Him into the resurrection. He also can offer warnings, something that He knows is going to impact us—often in a negative way—or discourage us from an idea that we think makes sense, but is not going to work well for us. The warning can be, *Don't do this, do this instead*. Be careful, be alert that something new and different is going to happen that you need to know about so He can guide you into all truth. He'll guide you step by step by step, and you are alert to the thing coming up. It's a beautiful and privileged way of living for us. Why would we not?

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.”

¹⁶ For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left

LESSON 3:

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

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.

These verses speak an important truth three different times. When you hear His voice today remember God is speaking to you all the time. *I have something to say to you all the time. I'm going to guide you.* Even more specifically, He says that when that occurs, your role is to do what? Don't ignore it. Listen to it. Don't harden your hearts. What does this mean? What does that look like? Continually rejecting the message, the truth, because you either reject it outright or decide to do something different because you think you know better—or worse, not even care what He says.

We know that a lot of people don't think they can hear God's voice, but God is speaking anyway. Maybe you've hardened your heart because you don't think it's possible, and in doing so, you don't hear it. It's a deep form of unbelief. There are a couple of reasons for that:

1. What you've experienced doesn't support anything you are reading or hearing, so it doesn't make sense to you.
2. People who claim they hear God's voice seem off, seem strange, and we see their many mistakes and failures, particularly when they don't line up with scripture.

LESSON 3:

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

Interestingly enough, our view of scripture can actually work against us hearing God's voice. If you read the Bible as law—*I must try to perform what it says by working harder*—what does it do? (2 Cor 3:4–6) It kills you. It kills the very life that God wants to give you, which He does by speaking to you—by declaring, *I'm going to give you life, and I'm going to speak to you now.*

This is why we emphasize and teach abiding in the vine, in the Word. It's never the opposite of scripture. All scripture is God breathed and is true. As we hear Him speak to us, our heart is to say, *What do you have to say to me?* If we have an issue or are dealing with something, the best place to start would be to go to the Word of God and let Him speak that to us. *God, what are You saying to me?* You go deeper with the Holy Spirit to let Him reveal His word to you, have Him apply the word, help you receive and understand the word, and how the wisdom of it and the depth of it applies to you. It's not a generic thing, it's truth, from God. God says through the Spirit, *I'll speak that truth to you so that you say, "How do I follow this in light of what I have learned so far? I'm struggling with that. Let me walk with the Spirit as He speaks into my heart. Let me walk into experiencing it."*

So, the difference is that as you're abiding in the word and abiding in the resurrected life, as you're receiving truth, the Spirit is going to ask you, *Do you believe it?* Then, as He continues to speak and guide, He will ask, *Are you experiencing it?* If you want to be led and guided, but have never experienced His life in real situations for you, you're not living the life of the resurrection. If you are, then this life is going to be experienced by you, not because you went and did it on your own, but because you received it. The Spirit today is speaking. Don't harden your heart and get to the point where you're wandering around, not experiencing the resurrected life. Rather, hear and follow.

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.

LESSON 3:

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

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!"

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,

God says, *I'm waiting for you*. What is He waiting for? He's waiting for you to come live in the resurrection. He wants to deliver this life to you, but can't do it unless you're with Him. He's waiting for you to say, *Let's go*. Why? Because nothing is too difficult for Him, and He can restore this life if you have a heart to go. He's waiting for that.

Then He says, *Now you wait for Me*. What are you waiting for? To hear His voice and to be guided into all truth. Step by step by step. Don't go ahead of Him. Don't figure this out on your own. Walk with Him, and He'll give you the resurrected life. He's waiting for you. You wait for Him. He says the way it looks is that you will hear a voice from behind you and it will say, *Turn right or turn left*.

Where's the voice coming from? Behind you. He uses this analogy purposely. The reason is that when you're in the natural, what are you looking at? You're looking ahead at things you see and then make conclusions based upon what you see and understand. He says that it would be worse for you to rely on what you observe and think through with your own logic, instead of being led by the Holy Spirit. He uses the voice from behind, saying by definition, since you can't see, you're going to have to listen—which will stimulate having a heart to listen. And He leads us, guides us very specifically and is the only way we can walk—one step at a time.

LESSON 3:

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

We are to trust that the Spirit is going to tell us His steps that will lead us to the best, to the fullness of the resurrection life. He is waiting for us to follow Him; He asks us to wait for Him to speak, then listen, and follow—He will fulfill His part—to speak, lead, and guide. Trust this and learn this.

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 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.

LESSON 3:

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

The Spirit is interceding for us. His role is to transfer all that is Christ's to us—the resurrected life. He's interceding according to what? God's will. When? Now. He's receiving the Father's will for us personally. His job is to communicate that to us. Here are the steps: Walk in it. Let Him do what He is prepared to do for us. It's His work for us. That is the resurrection life. Jesus said, *I am the resurrection and the life. It's My life being given to you in your everyday walk. It's not you earning it. It's not you working toward it. It's not you doing something separately. It's Me, I am the resurrection. I'm giving you that life.*

The Spirit's job is to receive that instruction from the Father and transmit it to those of us who love God. In other words, if we're willing to receive it, He says all things work together for good. How many things? All things. Even our foolish mistakes? Even the pickles we get ourselves into, even the situations that come up that are against us. Nothing is too difficult. He says, *I am the resurrection life, have the power to make everything work for your benefit, and the benefit is to enjoy the freedom and joy of the Kingdom.* All things means all and include more than just financial things, relationship with spouse, kids, friends, joy of life, sweetness of life, margin, all these things. He said, *I'll make all things work together for good.*

Then he raises a question, *If God is for you, who could be against you?* What's the answer? Nothing. Nothing can come against you, as God is completely for you. God is for you. He is for you. What are you to do? Live in the resurrection. Have you experienced the resurrected life? Have you experienced the power of the resurrection life? Don't neglect so great a salvation. *I'll bear witness with signs and wonders and miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit. I'm for you. And if I'm for you, it doesn't matter what you face.* Why? He's the greatest power there is, and He's giving that to you.

He goes on to explain it and says, *Not only am I for you, but nothing can separate you from My love.* He gives an exhaustive list of all that cannot separate. The word *love* means, *I've come to give you life, supernatural resurrection.* Indeed, a super-abundant life. It's not just a statement. *Yes, I love you.* If it never translated into anything positive, what's your thought about that love? It's not that great, it's hollow, it's nothing. His love is real, and it delivers the resurrection life: Let Him help you experience that life now. It's real.

LESSON 3:

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

Nothing can separate you from His affection as He delivers the resurrection life. Did you notice that of all the things on the list, there is one thing not on the list. It's very clever. The list includes things present and things future, but He doesn't include the past. How come? The time is always now, today, forward. How about now? The past has already happened—and doesn't matter if it was difficulty, oppressive, harmful, etc. There's nothing you can do about it now. Your life is now forward, and nothing can separate you from Him. Let's enjoy that and not spend any time in the past, which, by the way, Paul stated, is the one thing he learned, *Forget the things that lay behind, and press onto the high calling of Christ Jesus, because that's where the power and the resurrection are.* He invites us to that place and says He can handle it all. He wants you to live the resurrection life. And as you experience it, you always have that expectation that the Kingdom of God is just a step away. Repent, step into the Kingdom, and experience the resurrection life that He has planned for you. He continues to pursue us because He loves us. He has great things, and He loves to shower us with great blessings.

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

God so loved us that He did what? He gave Himself in our stead to solve the problem of us not being perfect—the requirement to have relationship with a perfect, Holy God. He did it by His own love. He said, *I'm offering to you to have and experience eternal life*, Jesus explains eternal life in John 17:3 saying that eternal life is knowing the Father and knowing the Son, experiencing the Father and experiencing the Son. In other words, eternal life is the resurrected life of God. That's what eternal life is. *I've given you this opportunity because of My work and there's no condemnation there. Why don't you enjoy it and receive it?* Don't just know about it or see it as a ticket to heaven. Instead, recognize that the resurrected life is to be enjoyed now.

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

Dwell with Him. Stay with Him. Resurrected life will be given as you delight Him. He delights in you being with Him and He with you in the resurrection. He says that He will give you the desires of your heart. Did you notice the key word there? He gives. You don't chase. Rather, you live in the Kingdom and be a receiver, which only occurs if we surrender to Him. You walk with Him. *One thing I'm going to do because of the way I've created you, because I love you, because I am delighted to give you the resurrection life, is to give you the things that thrill you. Let Me give you those.* It is ok to define these so that you recognize them when God gives them to you—and it gives you excitement and enthusiasm for life. It truly is remarkable how personal God is for us. He brings our circumstances in sync with who we are and what thrills us. It's His sovereignty. It's His gift of the resurrected life. It's something beyond us that we can't understand. He says, *I'm gearing things to you specifically that actually thrill your heart and get you excited.*

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.

LESSON 3:

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

The words *steadfast* love mean His loyalty to the Covenant, which will come together as you are living in the resurrection. He's going to deliver the Covenant. He's going to bless you to make you a blessing. He says, *I'm going to give you what is good*. The word *good* here means all things excellent, superb, over-the-top, outstanding, and supernatural—all things that only He can deliver. He says, *That's what I'm going to give you as part of My love for you. I'm going to hand you over everything that is Mine—unique to you. That's why going back to the desires of your heart is unique*. What you consider good may be different for the person standing next to you. So, it's not universal. This is unique to you. It is excellent, superb, thrilling, exciting, and adventurous for you. Let Him give that to you.

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.

He explains, *The reason I can give you the abundant life, the super-abundant life, the resurrection life, which I've come to give is because I'm the Good Shepherd. What does the Good Shepherd do? Take care of the sheep. Deliver the life for the sheep that cannot be achieved by themselves*. The key word is give. He gives it, He delivers it, He provides it. How? By walking with Him in His pasture. We cannot achieve it ourselves and cannot gain it on our own. We are to be living with the Shepherd and receive it from Him.

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.

He says that as He expresses His love for you, you're going to experience peace. Our definition of peace is limited. We look at peace as absence of conflict. *He said, That's not the definition. It's shalom, favor, Covenant, blessing, all the beauty of life, and I'm going to give it to you.* He also clarifies that what He is to give is not what the world gives. How does the world give it to us? Conditionally, periodically, episode by episode, transitory, and it also takes it away. If we are walking with Him, He says He will give it to you always, and you will experience it all the time. Shalom, He's giving that to you. You get to live in peace, in shalom. This is particularly pertinent as we face difficulties. He says, *I know you have a problem. I know this is difficult. I*

LESSON 3:

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

know this is troublesome and looks like it might not go well for you. How about if I give you peace? Do you trust Me? I'll resolve this. You can trust Me. You can live in shalom. Favor is coming. Resolution is coming. I can make all things work for your good. Trust Me. I'll give you peace, even now as you are in the middle of it.

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,

Don't chase the resurrection life on our own, which is in the flesh, trusting in our success or financial position. Rather, in the life of the resurrection. He wants to give it to us, and the things He gives are for us to enjoy. *I want you to enjoy it. Let Me give you the joy of it.* There's an excitement about that. We will appreciate it because He'll put us in this sweet spot to help us have financial freedom, to resolve issues, to have margin, to have things of life work out for good. He said, *I'm going to give you all these things.*

LESSON 3:

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

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.

He says that in the resurrected life we will lack wisdom about what? Everything. Why? Because we don't know what's around the corner. We don't know the dynamics of all that He's working at once. We tend to think linearly about what makes sense to us as a potentially good answer for our situation. God says, *Why don't you ask Me? One of the benefits of the resurrected life is for Me to show you with great clarity, My answers.* He knows the whole thing. His heart is to willingly and freely answer us. Our role is to ask. God, what do You have to say about this? His role is to get us these answers—and with clarity. We are to ask Him to give us wisdom, the truth, an understanding of what is going on. His response to this is that we should feel confident that He will deliver it to us. We are to trust that and expect that—and enjoy that. We will receive the resurrected life.

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.

To conclude this course, we end with Him speaking: *I've raised you up with Me in the resurrection, seated with Me at the right hand of the Father by My favor. Join Me there. Stay there. I prepared a path for you to walk in, unique to you.* And what does that path look like? It's a good path, it's good works, it's not you doing this or that.

This is an important understanding of this verse. It's not us doing works for Him. It's Him giving us the work of the resurrection in our life that will play itself out as we experience this. It's His life through us. We are the visual representation of the invisible God. We are living out His work as we live in the resurrection. He has raised us up. He has given us the resurrection, and His life is the resurrection. He is the resurrection. *Come and live with Me. Join Me. Let Me give you this life, and it'll be spectacular.* Is it going to be free of problems? No, because we live in the world. But in that world, we get the privilege of living in the resurrection, which gives us the opportunity to experience the fullness of life.

LESSON 3:

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

Be encouraged to process this personally. Take the issues that you have, and go to God. Seek wisdom. Believe that He's for you and not against you; that all things work together for good; that nothing can separate you from this beautiful life. He's inviting you to receive it. Do not harden your heart by neglecting so great a salvation. Choose to follow Him and surrender your will to His. He promises to bear witness with signs, wonders, miracles, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, all of which come with the fullness of the resurrection life.



