

We have just celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus three days after his crucifixion... everything changed from despair Friday and Saturday to utter amazement and joy Sunday...everything was going to change again.... Now what does the future look like? How is all this going to work moving forward? We must revisit the day of Resurrection at the empty tomb... a particular instruction was given to the women by an angel and Jesus...

NLT MT 28:5 Then the angel spoke to the women. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. 7 And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you." 8 The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. 9 And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."

- **And Jesus also told them where in Galilee to go to meet**

NLT MT 28:16 Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!

Why? so they can be recommissioned ...it is the same mountain where Jesus first called and commissioned the apostles 2 1/2 years earlier ... remember the night of Jesus arrest the apostles and disciples scattered in fear for their lives ? Peter denied him?

- **Their lives were shattered and their mission aborted ...they needed to be restored...they needed to be brought back to their call...to the mountain where their call...was given**

- From Jesus perspective...the call was still in effect...he is still with them...they must know the mission is on...but their trust must grow ...
- **On the mountain there they see Him, some hesitate. they “doubt”... Why? First of all “doubt” is the same word used when peter hesitated before he walked on water...matt 14:31**
- **It is not because they are unsure whether it is Jesus or not, but rather because they are not quite sure what to do now. They hesitate...on the commands given ...how is that supposed to happen? It was not that they had no faith; it was that they had little faith. some doubted they can do what he has been telling them ...they were still spiritual children...**
- **So Jesus tells them ...they will have his authority...power to do this:**

NLT Matt 28:18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” ...He never lacked authority, but now it has been enlarged. It is as big as the universe and is no longer confined to a ministry to Israel. He will rule from Heaven

- **Third Jesus comes to the heart of the mission. to make disciples, reach, teach, equip and empower others...with all they have learned...that learning will take time...as we can only**

take others as far as we have gone ourselves.. and others will in turn do that themselves

Fourth Jesus says his power and presence will be with them always...in their failure, success, trials, losses, wins...

So to make disciples, requires three things: going, baptizing, and teaching. “**Going**”—you do not wait for people to come to you, but you go to them be among them. “**Baptizing**”—people make a public recognizable commitment to the Christian faith and repudiate the Roman gods. “**Teaching**”—instructing people to obey everything Jesus commanded, to live out their faith in real life...

- **Many years later John describes these three stages of spiritual development, or three levels of maturity**

NIV1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

13 I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. 14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil on.

- **There are three groups -- children, fathers, young men. These have no relationship to physical age whatsoever, or to sex it applies to women also.**
- **It is possible for a person sixty years in age and be a babe in faith ...Now let us look at these more closely.**

These successive maturity stages of the Christian life parallel the natural growth process...(and, if you are a Christian, you

belong in here somewhere). Every believer starts out as a dear child!

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, dear children, because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.

14 I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father.

- **To become a child of God you must be born into the family...or born again! You cannot get into a family without birth.**
- **Now John immediately describes the experience of all Christians which follows this new birth. "Little children, I am writing to you because your sins are forgiven on account of his name...because of Jesus you know you have a Father !!**
- **It is forever true of all Christians that their sins are forgiven, and it is the first thing they become aware of.**
- **There destiny is solved thru the forgiveness of their sins...they are an heir of Heaven. What a wonderful experience it is.**
- **But they are unfamiliar with the Christian walk**

1) John jumps to the other other end of the growth process, the fully matured Christian, the fathers or mothers

13A I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.

- **That is the chief characteristic of one who could be called a father, "You know him who is from the beginning." Who is that? The father ,Son and Holy Spirit...from the beginning**
- **The word "know" carries the implication, "coming to know by experience."**

- **A father is one who has come to know, by long experience in walking with Jesus.**
- **There are two inescapable factors about that kind of knowledge. 1. There is relational understanding of Jesus; thru your experiences in life 2, and, it must be over a long period of time.**
- **No one can become a father, in this sense, overnight. But a father who has experienced all the seasons of Fatherhood or motherhood**
- **The inevitable result of that you become more like**
- **Jesu in handling life...because of the close proximity to him.**
- **You often see this on the natural, do you not? If two people live together a long time, know each other well, and are communicating -- talking back and forth -- they grow to be like one another.**

Thus fathers/mothers are Christ-like. That is their chief characteristic. They possess in great measure the disposition of Jesus Christ.

They have left behind the signs of immaturity. Remember Paul says, in that great love chapter of First Corinthians 13:

1 Corinthians 13: ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

3)The third stage he indicates is that of young men of women those in the middle stage..:

13b I am writing to you, **young men**, because you have overcome the evil one.

14.....I write to you, **young men**, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

- **The indicative mark here is that a young man/woman has overcome the evil one.** They are strong and have learned to fight well the spiritual battles
 - What does that reveal? First it reveals that their eyes have been opened to the true nature of the struggle of life. As Paul put it in Ephesians 6, Our problem is not people. Which is often the battle of children...blame others, **It's people who are my problem."**
- **But anyone who has learned to overcome the evil one knows differently.** *He knows we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against wicked spirits in high places, against world rulers in this present darkness.*
- They are growing in winning the battle of our thoughts...our attitudes, are self aware...
- Here is the true battle, and these young christians have had their eyes opened to the struggle and have come to grips with these powerful invisible forces that wreak such havoc today.

They have learned to live deliberately and consistently in fellowship with the Son of God, for that is the only way to overcome the evil one. You cannot do it by your own might.

How do you overcome? Well, as Paul puts it again in Ephesians,

*Eph 6:¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.
¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.*

- **They have learned how to walk in the Spirit. They walk with god, and are in fellowship with themselves, and others...and have become ambassadors for the Kingdom...**

We are partakers in the family of God, representtives in a growing way to the Kingdom ..we live with a purpose and a new destiny! I am in.... and so we are joined by those getting Baptized today... which is the confirming of our New Faith...aand a step of obedience in our msturity....Baptism is the outward declaration that you are a child of God and a citizen of a new kingdom...The Kingdom of God...And Baptism is their citizenship papers....

NLT Matt 28: 18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- **you were separated from God now you belong** to the Father , Son , Holy Spirit
- **you go from separation from Christ to baptized into Christ empowered with the Holy Spirit**
- **You ARE BAPTIZED AS A DEMONSTATION TO THE WORLD OF WHO YOU BELONG TOO**
- **you go from separation to Disciple... from ignorant of the things of God to a disciple learning the ways of God**

²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- **you go from powerless in the spiritual realm to blessed with the authority of Christ!**

But wait there is more....++++There is pie in the sky....there is a better place...the best is yet to come...so keep your focus right

NIV 2CO 4: 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Everything we see is temporary (brief, passing, transitory, impermanent, momentary)

- **And what you don't see is eternal (perpetual, endless, ceaseless, everlasting, never ending)**
- **So we live with a new purpose...we make decisions with Kingdom purpose...**
- **You see People who follow Jesus ... know the best is yet to come...**
- **Their outlook on the world is eternal...and they are truly blessed to be chosen and a part of it...**
- **They expect God to do what he says**
- **They wait patiently on the Lord to do it**
- **They live with purpose, act with purpose and make choices on purpose...the blessed become a blessing!**

today is a great day for those being Baptized! it is a reminder for those of us who have been Baptized of who we are...and an encouragement for those who have not to get in!

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- **What mountain?**

MK 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. ¹⁴ He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach ¹⁵ and to have authority to drive out demons. ¹⁶ These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter); ¹⁷ James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder); ¹⁸ Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot ¹⁹ and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Interestingly...John does not mention here some of the negative aspects of spiritual infancy.

- He merely marks this one consistent, positive condition that is true of all who come to Christ -- their sins are forgiven. He does not mention that, like physical babies, new Christians can often be rude and egotistical, emotionally unstable and overly dependent on other people.
- That is the way new babies are. They display many negative qualities, but the one thing that is universally true of them is that they are in the family, they have life.

1 John 2:6 *Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.*

- The point of claiming to Know Christ is to live like him in the world...
- To participate in life with following his lead and living by his rules...
- So we can live a life full...full of purpose, joy, influence, helping others, without... in a sense fouling out!
- Listen to the words of Jesus...
- Following Jesus is a lifestyle...where the claim of belief, must be accompanied by the practice of said beliefs ...or else the beliefs are invalid...
- when one follows Jesus...

- **He will lead you to interact with the world whom he loves...caring for it, helping it, healing it, connecting it to him and to each other...**

Someone who claims to follow Jesus will act like it and have a growing love for both God and men...

^{2PE 1:3} His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁴ Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

^{2PE 1:5} For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. ⁸ For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

- **Bottom Line...Love God, love yourself, Love others which can only be done as the power of God...Father Son and Holy Spirit...control our lives...**

Back to First John 2:9-11

*^{IJN 2:9} Anyone who claims **to be in the light** but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the*

darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

- **It may well be said that this is the greatest compliment the Lord could pay anyone...for in it Jesus commands the Christian to be what he claimed himself to be...**

MT 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

JN 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- **When Jesus stated that his followers were lights to the world he said they were to be like him to the world Jesus goes on to explain some things about light...**

Explain light in a roman/Jewish household...

- **Oil fired lamps are critical in a land without electricity...in America we do not appreciate this fact ...but much of the world would.**
- **Lit once and then stayed on all the time or transferred the light while the oil was refilled...when they left the house the lamp was placed under an earthen shelter..kept lit...but used to avoid accidental fire...**

- **One ..the lamp is lit by someone else...the lamp is lit by a light...Jesus the lighter...we are the lamp...the lamp does not light itself it is lit by another**
- **Two it is not lit to be hid...but to be visible..**

The world is in great need of light...all over ...everywhere..

Number 1) So John is saying what Jesus said... that we are light to this world we are meant to be visible...interesting because sometimes we try to be invisible...

- **We are meant to be seen...I think the reason often times we want to be invisible is because we do not measure up to what we think the light in us should...**
- **But don't you see...that is part of what God wants the world to see...authentic light**
- **when we try to act like were all together...it is a fake light...it's light by mirrors**

[Matthew 5:16](#) *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*

- **There are a number of aspects to good deeds**
- **One of the good deeds we being a real Christian in our world...**
- **not perfect but growing...not walking in hate but forgiveness**
- **when wrong admitting it**
- **not judging but loving**
- **basically living life in the open... we are meant to be seen...**

Secondly light is used to guide...light reveals and is not deceiving.. what light reveals is what is...light guides when you have it you can see clearly...

• **Now there are things in me it is better for you not to follow... I won't brag about my failings and neither will I act like I have none**

what you see is what you ought to hear... that is called authenticity

Authenticity, means a Convergence of Confession and Life, a Harmonizing of Word and Deed. . . that's what the world is looking for when it comes to our faith. and that is what Jesus want to present...

1 John 2:10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

- **When you and I learn to love others as ourselves...there is nothing in us to make us stumble...**
- **obviously that is a process which we will never fully complete this side of heaven..**
- John wants us to grow in our faith...and This has happened to many Christians. They have never grown up.
- The Christian life is much more than a beginning in conversion, it is what happens after that which is of supreme importance.
- Christians who have never grown up are always a problem and cause many difficulties.
- **If you are a brand-new Christian, just come to know Jesus Christ, and still rejoicing in the thrill of new-found relationship, I am not**

speaking to you. You are not a problem, particularly, for there is always room and provision for babies in a family circle.

- But Christians who are yet babies after ten, twenty, thirty, even forty years of Christian life, these are the problem. They are immature, they refuse to grow up.

Yet they are not mature. They are spiritual, but they are not mature. They lack yet the full range of Christian experience.

- **There is great confusion in Christian circles at this point. There is a difference between spirituality and maturity.**
- **Maturity is the final goal. It is what the Spirit of God is aiming at, for you to be a grownup, mature, experienced Christian.**
- **Spirituality is the process by which you get there. Maturity is produced by time spent in fellowship, in spiritual relationship, to the Son of God.**
- **That is why you can live for years as a Christian and never mature, for the years are not spent in fellowship but in**

walking outside this relationship of fellowship with the Son of God.

This growing experience enables us to grow in compassion and love towards others giving the same compassion we have received from God to others...



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A heart for rightness and a heart that loves others...

John writes again...

1JN 2:7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. ⁸ Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

1JN 2:9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble. ¹¹ But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

- **People have been given this command since the time of Jesus...70+ years before...**
- **He is reminding them again...**

Just as peter does in 2 Peter 1:10-15

2PE 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never

fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

^{2PE 1:12} So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. ¹³ *I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body,* ¹⁴ because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. ¹⁵ And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you will always be able to remember these things.

This is what He reminded them...

A young man of thirty can be a babe in Christ, a father, or a young man according to the terms John uses here. These have no relationship to the time that you have been a Christian, the years since your conversion, or even to the position you may hold as a Christian.