

JESUS REVEALED

Father, in the name of Jesus, open our understanding. Reveal to us what you would have us to know, and how you would have us to know it, that we might be able to operate and live in what you have given us to know and to do in Jesus' name. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for opening our eyes, opening our hearts, opening our minds so that we are able to receive the things of your Spirit.

GROWTH AND LEARNING PROCESS

Our minds need to be renewed by the Word of God and the Spirit of God (our Teacher) in order to open our understanding. Our natural mind cannot receive what is of the Spirit of God.

The book of James says that if any lack wisdom, let him ask God, and He will give the wisdom. He will not find fault with us for not understanding.

After we are born again we have to grow up in the faith, hope, and love of God, just like a little child grows, and we begin to come into what the Lord has.

As Jesus taught the disciples, they started to grow into all He had intended them to be. The gospel shows that many times the disciples did not have a clue what Jesus was talking about. He explained things, speaking the Words which are spirit and life, as the Holy Spirit worked. The disciples began to understand. It was a growth and learning process of revelation.

Thank God Jesus is risen now, and the Holy Spirit is with us. Jesus has ascended on high, back to His place as Lord of lords and King of kings in the heavens, and He will come back to get us one of these days. We are here on the earth as ambassadors about His business, working the works of God, and showing the people the good news of the gospel, the love of God in what Jesus has done. Our part is to share the story, present the

present, and by the power of the Holy Spirit the Lord will enable people to receive the words we share, the things we do, and they will believe upon the Lord Jesus Christ for life and every good blessing.

Let us look at the process through which Jesus is revealing Himself to the disciples.

THE SITE OF THE RESURRECTION

- Luke gives his narrative of the resurrection, portraying certain women who went to the empty tomb on the first day of the week. When they showed up that morning, Jesus was gone. Two angels asked, "*Why do you seek the living amongst the dead? He is not here. He is risen, just like He said.*" (Luke 24:5) In other words, why are you here? The women were there to prepare His body for the burial which they did not have time because the Sabbath came.

Remember, Jesus was already prepared and anointed for His burial when the woman who had her sins forgiven anointed Him with oil worth a year's wages, and her tears washed Him. A mighty act of God. Jesus said, "*To whom much has been forgiven the same loves much.*" Jesus explained to the people that He was being prepared for His burial and for what He would go through.

- The women at the tomb were not in faith because they did not believe what Jesus had said, "*I will suffer and die, and on the third day I will rise from the dead.*" If they had believed it, they would not have wasted their time going to the empty grave.

REMEMBER HOW HE TOLD YOU?

We need to believe just what the Lord says. We need to find out what He says, and then believe it. We ask, "Lord, what do you want, and how do you want to do it?" It will be done, just the way the Lord says.

- None of the disciples believed that the Lord Jesus had risen from the dead. They were hiding in fear for their lives. They thought their lives and future were over. Their hope was gone because Jesus had died. When the women went back to tell them, they thought the girls were crazy. You see, they needed to understand that when the Lord says something, He means exactly what He says. They did not hear the part about rising from the dead or about Him suffering and dying. Sometimes when people are grieving, they don't hear the whole story. Understand, in Christ Jesus, though we die, yet shall we live. "*He or she who lives and believes in me,*" Jesus says, "*will never die. I am the resurrection and the life.*"

The Lord gives hope where there is no hope. He gives a future where there is no future. When Jesus is your Lord and Savior, you have the life of heaven. You died to the old self so that you could have the resurrection life of Jesus. As Christians we live in the resurrection life, and the power of the resurrection.

- The two angels said, "*Why do you look for the living amongst the dead? He is not here. He is risen. Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day raised again?' Then they remembered His words.*" (Luke 24:5-8)

When you remember His words, then His words are right in front of you. "*Do not let them out of your sight.*" (Proverbs 4:20-21) Keep the vision of God in front of your eyes. That is what the Lord wants. It will give you hope and a future. It will cause you to believe God and to move ahead into all that He has for your life. But the disciples had forgotten about this. Again, they were not going to the tomb in faith, believing God. They had gone for another reason.

You will find in life that the Lord is leading you and guiding you. You may think you are about one thing, but as you go, it ends up being about something else. Don't get concerned. I have seen it thousands of times personally over the years.

- “*Then the women [Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James] remembered Jesus’ words..., and they told all these things to the eleven, but they did not believe the women because the words seemed to them like nonsense.*” (Luke 24:5-11)

BELIEVE HIS EVERY WORD

These were the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and His words appear to them like nonsense! Why? They did not believe the words. They did not receive them. They did not understand them. They thought their lives were over, Jesus was gone, He died in the grave.

Why did it take three days? Because He went down and preached the gospel to those who had died in faith, believing, before He had come to this earth.

Jesus said to them, “Here I am. I am the One! Every word that you believed and went to the grave believing, I am here to tell you that you will have life forevermore. Resurrection power.”

The Lord always ties everything up and finishes everything that He does. Now those people who had died before are ready to meet the Lord when the final trumpet blasts. They are going to rise first to meet the Lord in the air, and those who remain will be changed. The Lord will give us an everlasting body, a spiritual body, to match who we really are.

THE PROMISE AND THE POWER

- Here we see the disciples thinking all is nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. “*Bending over he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away wondering to himself what had happened.*” (Luke 24:12) Well, Jesus had told him what was going to happen: “*The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.*” (Luke 24:7)⁸

- Peter was still in a quandary. He did not really understand what had happened. (Many times in our lives as Christians we don't understand what is happening or why it is happening.) Things will be done just the way the Lord says. This is why it is so important that we get God's wisdom, and if we lack, we need to ask for it. The Lord will not hold back anything (James 1). He will not find fault with us for not knowing because how do we know the things of the Spirit unless they are revealed to us. Nobody can even receive Jesus unless the heavenly Father enables them to receive.

Jesus died to save everybody without exception. "*Many are called, but few are chosen.*" The chosen are the ones who receive the call, who believe, and will do what the Lord says to do. If you confess with your mouth, "Come into my heart, Lord Jesus, be my Lord and my Savior," He will come in. Otherwise the gift is out there. Jesus presented the present of His life for us, and now it is for us to receive that present and promise. We receive Jesus into our hearts as Lord and Savior, and be born again, and that is when the resurrection power begins in our life.

"Now to him who is able to do far more exceedingly abundantly more than anything that we are able to ask or think according to the power that works in us." (Ephesians 3:20) You have the power of God and the glory of God working in you when you receive Jesus. He comes in, and you are crucified with Christ. The old selfish self is dead and buried with Him. In baptism, you are buried with Jesus, and when you come out of the water, you are raised from the dead to a new life with God, like Jesus was raised from the dead. But it is the faith that saves. That faith in Jesus. *"It is no longer you who lives, but Christ who lives in you, and the life you now live you live by the faith of the Son of God."* (Galatians 2:20)

THE LORD DOES NOT HOLD BACK

- Peter wondered to himself what had happened. The Lord was not going to leave him without understanding. If he was seeking, he would get understanding.

The Holy Spirit shows us this revelation account and how the Lord Jesus wants us to know these things. He does not want to hide anything about heaven, who the Father is, and what He has for us. He does not want to hold back anything, in direct contrast to what the devil told Eve in the garden saying, “The Lord doesn’t want you to know all these things lest you become like Him.” The whole point of Jesus, God Himself coming in the flesh to save us, is that we might be like Him and His glory. That is the heart of God. He loves us that we might be one. See His prayer in John, chapter 17. He was praying for Himself, for the disciples, for all of us today who have believed and received the message that we might be one with Him and the Father as He and the Father are one that we might be one with each other as well.

The complete deception is that the Lord does not want us to know Him. But to believe upon Him and to have all that He has and is, is His heart’s desire. *“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”* (John 14:12) He wants us to bring glory to the Father. He wants us to succeed in this life and our mission. The cross the Lord has given us is not heavy to bear. It is a purpose, it is a plan to carry out what we have been given from the Lord.

We have the power of the resurrection, the same power that raised Jesus from the dead working in our behalf, working every moment of every day so that we can overcome everything of the devil. There is life in Jesus’ name – spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and in relationships. The Lord will give us everything we need, and has already given it to us for life and for godliness. All the promises of God are “yes” in Jesus (2nd Peter 1:2) so that we might participate with the Lord in His divine nature, overcome the evil in the earth, and not be contaminated and defiled by it.

YOUR HEAVENLY POSITION

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:1-2) That is our position in Christ Jesus. Resurrected, high and lifted up with the Lord. You can see what a horrible thing the temptation was to Eve, telling her that the Lord did not want her to be like Him. The devil is a liar, is he not? And he has lied to many people, even Christians, making them think that they cannot have all the things the Father says. My prayer today in Jesus' name is that we all come into every truth the Lord would have us to believe and receive. That needs to happen before the Lord comes back.

Ephesians, chapter 4, says that we are one in spirit, which means united in faith in Christ Jesus (speaking about the Church). We are not one in the faith yet because folks have not believed and received many of the things the Lord has for them. The mind, the devil, the world, and religious spirits have kept people from many things that the good Lord has. Jesus says, "*I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.*" (John 10:10)

Many have not come into all that the good Lord has because, first, they are ignorant of what He says, and second, they heard what He said, but they don't believe it. Their minds, and the thief, have blinded them from receiving what God has.

As we continue this account, watch closely how the Lord ministers, teaches, and reveals Himself to these disciples on the road to Emmaus.

THE ROAD TO REALITY

- *“Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus about seven miles from Jerusalem.”* (Luke 24:13)

This was the same day the girls went to the tomb, the same day Peter ran there and found the empty tomb, wondering to himself what had happened.

The disciples on the road to Emmaus talked about everything that had happened. (The Jewish leaders at the time were perpetrating the lie that

the disciples had come and stolen Jesus' body. It is very clear the disciple were not even there. They were not believing what Jesus had said, and had forgotten). If you are believing God for something, don't forget the promise. Keep it in your head, keep it in your heart, and continue in that word. You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free, and keep you free. (John 8:31-32)

As the disciples discussed these things with each other along the road, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them. They were kept from recognizing Him because He had a spiritual body now.

- He asked them, "*What are you discussing together as you walk along?*" In other words, He was participating with them. As He was talking with them, sharing with them, "*they stood still, their faces downcast.*" In their thinking, not only was Jesus dead, but they could not find His body. He was gone, and all their hopes and dreams were dashed. All their future hope was gone. Everything they believed in was not true. They were depressed, and they were downcast.
- Cleopas asked Him, "*Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?*" (Luke 24:18)

What they knew was what they has seen, but they really did not know anything (because we walk by faith and not by sight). What they had seen was not actually the reality. The real reality of Jesus dying on the cross was that the devil had His head stuck in the toilet. All his plans were ruined in Jesus' name. The power of heaven separated the devil from the people of God, and nothing in hell could hinder people from coming to Jesus for life and for blessing. The Lord exposed the devil to an open shame, and it will not be reversed. In other words, we have authority over the devil and all his power, and all the evil in the earth because the Lord Jesus has given it back to us through faith in Him. "*Behold, I give to you authority over serpents, scorpions, over all the power of the devil, and nothing shall in any ways harm you.*" (Luke 10:19)

That is what actually took place at the cross. The people saw Jesus, the man, suffering and dying, but they did not realize what was real. The Lord triumphed over evil and over the power of the devil, who was kicked out of heaven the first time. Then he was exposed to an open shame at the cross when Jesus obediently, joyfully submitted to the Father's will, being the perfect sacrifice for us to save us, and life was given to people again. The cell doors were opened, and whoever believes on the Lord Jesus Christ will walk right out of the cell that the devil had them in. Captives were set free that day.

- “*What things?*” Jesus asked the disciples.

“*About Jesus of Nazareth,*” they replied. “*He was a prophet.*” Note, He was a prophet (meaning He was dead). “*Powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.*” As He lived, yes, he was all that, but now He was dead, and that was why they were downcast.

“*The chief priests, our rulers, handed Him over to be sentenced to death and they crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one who was going to redeem Israel.*”

They were not actually looking to Jesus to save them from the devil and all the horrendous evil in the earth. They looked to him to set them free from the Roman Empire. That was not what Jesus was about. He was not to free them politically from the oppression of the Romans. No, He was here to set us free from the oppression of the devil and all the evil that was in the earth.

- “*And what is more, it is the third day since it all took place.*” (Luke 24:21) What was supposed to happen on the third day? He was supposed to rise from the dead, as Jesus told them. But again, they forgot about that. They did not believe it. They did not receive it. Even though He had raised people from the dead (like Lazarus), in John, chapter 11, Jesus said “*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*” They had seen the Lord do this the day there was a funeral march for a young man. He touched the boy, and the boy rose from the dead.

Then Jesus gave him back to his mother. The disciples had seen this, but they did not know how Jesus could raise Himself from the dead.

Jesus' Father would not leave Him in the grave. It was foretold many years ago in the Psalms that His Daddy would not leave Him there. The Lord is not going to let anybody remain in the grave who puts their trust in Him. "*Because He loves me, I will rescue him, I will help him,*" "*I will provide for him,*" the Lord says. (See Psalms 16 and 91)

TOO GOOD AND TOO TRUE

- "*In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning, but did not find His body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.*" (Luke 24:22-24) They didn't know where He went. Well, He told them He was going to rise from the dead. This was too good to be true, but let me tell you, everything the Lord says and everything the Lord does is too good, and it is too true. It will be just the way He says.
- "*Jesus said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!'*"

What was going to happen, and how it was going to happen, was foretold in the Old Testament by the prophets. Jesus was the living proof of everything and the fulfillment of everything the prophets had talked about.

- "*Did not the Christ have to suffer these things,*" Jesus asked, "*and then enter His glory?*"

That perfect sacrifice had to be given, the Lamb without blemish and without spot that Isaiah wrote of hundreds of years before. It had to happen that the mission of God was to come to save us. "*You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.*" Everything that separated us from God was removed at the cross. That is the real reality of

what happened. It was not just a man suffering and dying, people feeling sorry for Him. No, He was glorified the moment He said, “*Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing.*” He set people free, all the people, and when He said, “*Father, I commend my spirit to you,*” He released Himself to the Father. At that moment the blood of Jesus washed us and cleansed us from all our sin, and all that separated us from the Father. “*Surely He has borne our griefs* [Hebrew: sickness, disease, malady, all the physical things], *and carried our sorrows*, [the emotional realm].” The Lord took it away, “*and the chastisement of our peace was upon Him.*” (Isaiah 53)

He took our place. “*He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ*” (be in right standing with the Father), and be “*the chastisement of our peace,*” (take our punishment). We deserved hell, He did not. He took it away and gave us life in heaven, with God, right at that moment. Praise the Lord forevermore. I thank Jesus every day for what He did to save us.

GOD'S ONLY PROVISION FOR LIFE

If Jesus had remained in the grave, then there would be no reason for faith, no reason for hope, no reason for love. The fact of God is, “*He has risen, He has risen indeed.*” Everything that was done is sealed forever to those who believe the Lord Jesus Christ for life. They will have it forever. “*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on the Lord Jesus Christ will not perish, but will have everlasting life.*” That is God’s promise. He is the one and only provision for life, and that is why this is not an option. If you want life forever, it is only through Jesus Christ, and Jesus says that that life forever begins right now, the day you receive Him into your heart.

Say, “Lord Jesus come into my heart. Be my Lord and my Savior. I don’t want to be separated from you anymore. I want the life of heaven.” If you want that, receive it right now, in Jesus’ name, and you will be with the Lord forever. Say with your mouth, “Jesus Christ, You are my Lord,” for

“Confession is made to salvation.” (Romans 10)

Get a hold of this Word. Find out who you are in Christ Jesus. Who the Father is. Jesus has come to reveal that. Know what the power is, the exceeding greatness of the power of God that is ours in Christ Jesus so you can have the abundant life that He has promised us, and be about the Father's business.

- *“Beginning with Moses and all the prophets He explained to them what was in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.”* (Luke 24:27)

THE REVELATION COMES FORTH

- As the disciples on the road approached the village to which they were going, “Jesus acted as if He were going further, but they urged Him strongly, ‘Stay with us, for it is nearly evening. The day is almost over.’ He went in to stay with them, and when He was at the table with them, He took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and began to give it to them.” (Luke 24:30) (Just like in the upper room the previous week at the Lord’s Supper. “This is my Body; this is my blood given for you that you might have the forgiveness of your sins.”) Then their eyes were opened.

Lord, open our eyes so we can see the reality of the life and the promises of God.

It is not about going to church, giving tithes and offerings, helping the poor, or helping people in their times of need. This is about the reality of a risen Jesus who is now living in the hearts of His people. We become one with Him now and forever.

- *“And then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight.”* (His was a whole different body, a spiritual body. It would appear and disappear).

“And they asked each other, ‘were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the scriptures to us?’”

You can read the Word of God, you can hear the Word of God, and it not be open to you. Jesus said, *“Let them who have ears to hear, hear what the Spirit of the Lord has to say.”* You have to want to understand what it is about. You have to hunger and thirst after righteousness and the things of the Spirit of God, then the Holy Spirit will show you what you need for life, for godliness, and for blessing.

- *“Then they got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. They found the eleven, and those with them assembled together saying ‘It is true, the Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.’”* (Jesus called him Peter, the rock on which He was going to begin the church).
- *“Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke the bread.”* They explained their story. Their revelation was how Jesus revealed Himself to them. The Lord reveals Himself to different people in different ways, at different times in their lives as they are open to Him.

A LITTLE TALK WITH JESUS

At one time I had the thought that it would be nice if Jesus would walk in, sit down, and talk to me. You know, people see Jesus around me, and angels around me, but I have never seen Him in that way. As I was sitting there that day, I was looking for Him to show Himself – just sit down, have a talk. However, we talk all the time. (Understand what I am saying.) I just thought it would be nice if He would appear.

Understand something about the Holy Spirit: He only does what He wants to do, and He has a reason for why He does what He does. So, as I was sitting there, I heard a voice say,

“Son, what are you doing?”

“Well, I am kind of just sitting here thinking it is nice if you wanted to appear and sit there and talk with me,” I answered.

“Son, I am not going to do it,” He said.

“Okay, that’s alright,” I responded. It is always okay whatever the Lord wants to do. Have your way, Lord. No problem to me.

“I am not going to do it because you already know I am here, I am with you, I love you with an everlasting love. I am not going to leave you or forsake you. You have seen all that I do through you, in you, and around you. I am with you, and I have great plans. You know that I have great plans for you, plans to prosper. Not for evil, to give hope and a future. You have participated in all these things with Me, and you are working with Me side by side, day after day, moment after moment,” He clearly stated.

“You know my Word. I am here with you. I will not leave, I will not forsake. You are gathered in My name. I am there in the midst. I am already here, you know that, and you don’t need me to appear to you because you believe my Word that I am already here. We are talking now, and I talk with you all the time, and you talk with Me all the time, and we have relationship,” He concluded.

“I know, Lord. I just thought it might be nice if you appeared,” I said.

I thank God every day that He did not want to do that because I believe His Word, He is there. He is His Word. They are one. We are one. See, “*Be it done to you according to your faith.*” I did not need Him to appear to know that He is here, always. I thank God for that every day, that wonderful relationship I have with the Lord, and you have with the Lord. Actually I have an even greater desire to be with Him and to spend time with Him, to enter into His rest and all His promises, and escape the world’s nonsense.

It has been said “You are so heavenly minded, you are no earthly good.” Friends, let me tell you that is a lie. The real truth is if you are not heavenly

minded, you can be no earthly good. You cannot help anybody because Jesus brought spirit and life to people. What we will all bring in Jesus' name is spirit and life to people so they can have the things in heaven.

THEY NEEDED TO SEE JESUS

- *"And while they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself stood amongst them and said to them, 'Peace, be with you.'"* (Luke 24:36) They needed to see Him. They needed a revelation. They did not have the Word of God in their hearts and minds. They had forgotten He was going to rise on the third day just like He had said, whereas I had the Word of God, and I believed the Word of God.

You have the Word of God. Believe it. It is real and it is true.

- *"They were startled and frightened thinking they saw a ghost.* They were still not believing what He said because they thought He was a ghost.
- He said to them, *'Why are you troubled and why do doubts rise in your mind? See, look at My hands, and My feet; it is Myself. Touch Me and see. A ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see / have.'* He was different. He could go through walls. He could appear and disappear.
- *"And when He had said this He showed them His hands and feet* (the spiritual body). This is what we are going to have when Jesus transforms us someday. It is not in this dispensation, in this lifetime. We will have the resurrected body, a physical, resurrected body. Different, but a physical body, not made out of dirt, water, and inert gas. It is made out of God's Spirit.

JOY AND AMAZEMENT, BELIEVING

- “*And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement.*” (Luke 24:41) Now it is too good to be true. But remember, everything of the Lord is too good, and it is too true. It is real, the real reality. Now they have joy and amazement instead of being startled and frightened. They are moving into what the Lord has to start to believe. Hope is coming up because joy is not going to show up where there is no hope. When there is nothing but disappointment, despair, depression, and anxiety, it is not going to show up.

If you want joy in your life, you have to hope in God. When David was being hunted by Saul, every day he had moments where oppression and depression tried to come on him, and he said, “*Why art thou cast down, O my soul?*” He would challenge the thought. “*I will yet praise Him.*” In other words, “I am going to hope in God.” And so, he started praising God, and the disappointment, despair, depression, anxiety, worry, and fear started to disappear. That is how you do it.

I am always in amazement, faith amazement, God amazement. It amazes me every day how the Lord does such marvelous things with all His people. We see miracles, and we see them all the time. Why? We believe the Lord when He says something, for He is going to do exactly what He says. “*I am not a man that I am lying [or a devil that I am lying]. I am not going to change my mind. Have I not said it, and will I not do it? Have I not promised, and will I not fulfill?*” (Numbers 23:19) The Lord will do exactly what He says He will do, and all things will be possible to us when we act upon the Word of God, when we believe Him.

Belief, action, and obedience have to be together. Because these disciples did not believe, they acted the way they acted. Hiding, fearing, not believing the report when it came in, and thinking it was nonsense. Thomas in another gospel said, “*Except I see the holes in His hands and His feet, and His side, I am not going to believe,*” and Jesus later appeared to Him and said, “*Thomas, blessed is he who has not seen yet still believes.*” Instead, believe you are going to see. The expression “seeing is believing” is false. That is not how God faith works. (Hebrews 11:1) “*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen,*”

which means you have it even though you don't see it yet. It is coming out of the spiritual realm into the physical, and through faith and patience, you will inherit and receive all the promises of God.

- While Jesus was still there in the village with the disciples, He asked, "*Do you have anything here to eat?*" *They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate it in their presence.*" (Apparently with the new spiritual body, you will even be able to eat.) He brought back the Word of God to them. Many times you have to bring back the Word of God. You get caught up in life and get off the promises. You don't have them in front of your eyes. There are all kinds of other situations in front of your eyes, and you are looking at that rather than at Jesus and the Word. Keep the Word in front of your eyes, and everything else will fall into place accordingly.
- "*And this is what I told you when I was still with you,*" meaning, "I am with you, but not like I was before. I am different, physically. I am now the spiritual man of God." Actually, He is Lord of lords and King of kings, but He had not yet ascended to His place as Lord of lords and King of kings at that time. Understand, He was still with them as He was saying this, but He was different.

JESUS OPENED THEIR MINDS

- "*Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms.*" (Luke 24:44) Read those things and you will see they foretold about Jesus coming.
- "*Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scripture.*" (Luke 24:45)

I have seen it so many times, people have gone over Scriptures and read the Word of God, and all of a sudden their minds are opened. The testimonies come to us over and over again. For example, "When I listened to what you were sharing, all of a sudden, I understood. I read it many times, but now I really understand what it says." That is not because

of anything special with us, it is the Holy Spirit, the Teacher, who is instructing and correcting and directing and guiding and rebuking us through the Word of God. Adjusting.

- *"He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures, and He told them, "This is what is written, 'The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day'."* He had told the disciples this three times.

REPENTANCE, GIVE UP THE OLD LIFE

You have to turn away from your selfish life. You have to die to that old life before the resurrected, abundant life in Christ can happen. Many do not have the abundant life in Christ because they are still about their own selfish purposes (me, myself, and I-desires), and they have not really died to themselves and received the truth of heaven. That is why they worry. People worry and fear about their life: what they will eat, what they will drink, what they will wear, how they are going to survive. You have to die to all that, and take on the Lord's life. The only way that will happen is if you repent.

Many people share Jesus with others, but it is more than receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior [receiving the gift]. People have to repent from their old life, and the Lord gives them the ability to see this. I cannot have the life of heaven and still have the selfish life. I cannot add Jesus to my life to run it my way. No, you must deny yourself, Jesus said, and take up your cross and follow Him. Being a disciple of the Lord Jesus means it is not going to be your way anymore. In reality, it never was your way, you just tried to get your way. The world, the devil, and other people are not going to let you have your way because they want to have their way. That is the world out there, which is how it works apart from Jesus.

If Jesus Christ is your Lord, then you have to give up the old life (It is dead), and receive the resurrected life that the Lord gives. *"To as many as received Him [Jesus], He gave the power to become sons of God, born not*

of the will of man nor of the flesh of man, but born of heaven, full of God's grace, and full of God's truth." (John 1:12)

Lord, forgive me, I receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior, turning from that selfish life.

You can always tell when you are in your selfish life because you are fearing, worrying, or thinking about situations, and not thinking about Jesus and the promises of God, not thinking about helping others and doing good in the earth as the Lord directs. It is not about us trying to be Christians. We either are or we are not Christians. Jesus either is our Lord, and we do what He says and seek to do what He says, diligently seeking Him, or we are guided by ourselves and the devil.

- *"Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached, in the name of Jesus to all nations beginning at Jerusalem."* (Luke 24:47) That is where the Church of the Lord Jesus started.

THERE IS MORE!

- *"You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what My Father has promised."* The promise is the Holy Spirit. Jesus had to go so that the Holy Spirit could come. He would send the Holy Spirit, but *"Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."* (Luke 24:49)

The Lord has more to happen, but He always wants to explain things to us. He will show them to those who need to know, but He does not show what we do not need to know. I don't want to be a busybody. I only want to know what the Lord wants me to know and to do whatever He wants me to do in this life.

After Jesus appeared to the disciples and others, He told them many things. He had forgiven Peter of His three denials. The Lord brought everything full circle.

How can He use somebody if they are still out of sorts? We need to ask

the Lord to help us and to bring us into that place He wants us to be so He can use us to His glory in the earth.

- Jesus told Peter, “*Feed my lambs, feed my sheep.*” He did not even bring up the denials. He did not rub his face in it. He does not guilt him about those things. He just asks, “*Do you love me, Peter?*”

If you love somebody, you are not going to do them harm. You are going to do them only good, and you will believe the Lord for His best for that person. Again, you are going to keep the commandments towards people. The second table of the law is loving your neighbor as yourself. You want good things for them and for everybody. You don’t ever want to cause anybody pain or harm. Jabez prayed. “Lord, I don’t want pain for myself, and I don’t ever want to cause anybody else pain.” *Enable that to happen, Lord.*

- Then Peter asked, “*What about him?*” (speaking of John), and Jesus basically told him it was none of his business. If John was to live forever, then so be it. From that day on the rumor was spread that John was going to live forever. The reality is that Peter was going to live forever, John was going to live forever, all of us who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are going to live forever. What Jesus was telling him was “You do what you are given to do.” You only need to know what is needed to do what you are given, to enable you to take up your cross and follow Him.

This is the mission the Lord has for your life. He has an assignment for everyone’s life. He has somebody He wants you to love and to care for, and that is your assignment in this life.