



Loma Linda Filipino Church

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTORS – IN UNION WITH CHRIST

It is high time for each of us to know Christ better and experience the power of the Holy Spirit, Who raised Him from the dead. That same Holy Spirit will exercise the same power in our lives, as He brings Jesus into our minds and hearts. As Jesus lives in us, we will become like Him—sharing in His death, as well as in His resurrection.

The Apostle Paul, by his own experience with Christ in the Spirit, knew the power the Spirit brought into his own life. He experienced death in Christ, and also new life in Him. Here are choice passages from Paul's writings that encapsulate his amazing experience of knowing Christ and the result of being in union with Him through the Holy Spirit. He also wants us to experience Christ as he did. I, therefore, urge you, brothers and sisters, to know Christ better in a very personal and intimate way, especially as we continue to navigate our way through the daunting challenges of these strange times.

"I want to know Christ better. Yes, I want to know the power that raised Him from the dead. I want to join him in His sufferings. I want to become like Him by sharing in His death. Then by God's grace I will rise from the dead." (Philippians 3:10-11 NIV)

"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you." (Romans 8:11 NIV)

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20 NIV)

The following two quotes from Ellen White provide so much hope and assurance that no matter how difficult the challenges and trials we might go through, we have the assurance that all be will be well for us now, and things will become more glorious in the end when Christ will come again to take us home.

Christ became one flesh with us, in order that we might become one spirit with Him. It is by virtue of this union that we are to come forth from the grave, not merely as a manifestation of the power of Christ, but because, through faith, His life has become ours. Those who see Christ in His true character, and receive Him into the heart, have everlasting life. It is through the Spirit that Christ dwells in us; and the Spirit of God, received into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal. (DA, P. 388)

Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy-stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness. You will thus become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust; and in your souls will be reflected the image of Him by whose stripes you are healed. (5T, p. 267)

God bless you and keep you through the power of His Spirit and may you experience all the blessings that being in union with Christ brings today and forever.