



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 21, 2022

The Lord be with you. And Happy Easter. That's right, Happy Easter.

We are Easter people as Easter... Well, it's far to grand to rush past it, which takes me to a Bible verse, it is about God's Easter power alive in you and me as we follow after Jesus. The verse I have in mind is in the Apostle Paul's letter to the Roman Christians. Romans chapter 8, verse 11, I read, If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies. Now, the working assumption all the way through Romans Chapter 8, is that every believer does in fact have the Holy Spirit living within. Scripture says that the Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. You see that, for instance, in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 19, where it says, Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within. So in Romans 8, verse 11, it is a beginning with the assumption, if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, and He does. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies.

On that dark horrendous Good Friday, Jesus was dead. He was really dead. The Beloved Son of God laid limp, lifeless, dead weight, bearing the guilt and judgment Of sin, but then on Easter, the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead, raised him to life. The Holy Spirit did not resuscitate Jesus. The Holy Spirit did not wake him up. The Holy Spirit raised Jesus to life. So follow what scripture is saying to you and me here. It is saying that the Holy Spirit who gave life to Jesus is that same Holy Spirit living in you and me. To give us God's life, supernatural life. Sometimes people re-disperse and think that it is just talking about the last day. The day of resurrection, when the Holy Spirit will raise our bodies. Now, while that is true, there was more to this verse than that, as this verse is talking about today. It's talking about the here and now, as the Holy Spirit raises us to a new dimension of life, making us to share in the very life of God. This is what the apostle Paul was talking about over in 2 Corinthians chapter 4, verse 16, where he says, even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.

And that's the Holy Spirit doing, that's the Holy Spirit at work in us. Raising us spiritually, that we might be powered by the Holy Spirit to live and serve.

Now, a person who's helped me to understand a little bit more about the Holy Spirit raising us every day to this kind of life is Watchman Nee, that great church leader in China, when the Communists came to power and Watchman Nee... While he was persecuted, he was imprisoned, but he did so much to plant the seed of what we see today in the growing church of China. Watchman Nee tells a story of how when he was a youngster one day, standing on the bank of one of China's great rivers,



water from rock

and he was watching from the river bank as Christian brothers older than him. They were swimming, when one of them... Well, he seems to get a cramp and he's struggling to stay afloat, and Watchman calls to and signals to a brother in the water who was an excellent swimmer, he calls to him, calling him to help the man who is drowning, but the man seems to do nothing he seems not to care. When finally, finally, but a few quick strokes, the man goes to the struggling man and he brings him safely to shore. Watchman Nee said that he was angry, he was angry with his Christian brother who seemed at first to do nothing to help the drowning man. Why did you wait so long to help him, he asked angrily? And then the men explained... He said, If I had tried to help him sooner, he would have grabbed me and pulled both of us under... You cannot save a drowning man until he is exhausted and all the fight has gone from him and then you can save him. Watchman said that he understood and that he understood that and applied it to all of us who try so hard to stay afloat in the Christian life, we try so hard to live the Christian life and until we are exhausted... And it is at that moment that the Holy Spirit can jump in and save us and give us his very life, give us His very power for living, giving us that same power that raised Jesus from the dead on Easter. And I wonder if right now that perhaps you're tired from trying to live the Christian life, are you exhausted from trying to stay afloat? This is a time that the Holy Spirit can help you. As you begin to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit who makes his home in you, and you will begin to see and to experience at the same Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you to give you life and power for every day, I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler.

Thank you for listening.

Until next time.