

APRIL MESSAGE: MONTH OF

RESURRECTION *and* RENEWAL *for* ENLARGEMENT

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If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you..... This Spirit bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God. Rom. 8. 11, 17.

Verily, verily I say unto you, except a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it abides alone: but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit Jn. 12.24.

When He ascended up on high He led captivity captive and gave gifts unto His people. Eph. 4. 11

We enter in this new month a season that is set apart throughout the world to celebrate the Risen and Resurrected Christ. This is by far the most distinctive celebration of the Christian calendar for many reasons. What exactly are we celebrating in this season? It is the celebration of the greatest of the recorded miracles of all: that the Creator of the world lived among His creation (incarnation) and then died on the cross but raised to life by the Holy Spirit (the third Person of the Trinity) after three days. Through His victory over death, He conferred on all believers, incredible benefits which regrettably only a few of His committed disciples enjoy. These include the following:

First, movement of those who believe and receive Him as their Savior and Lord from the kingdom of Satan to the kingdom, where Christ reigns supreme as King. He does all of these through His Holy Spirit who resides in His followers. (Col. 1.13; Jn. 1.12, Is. 9.6-7; Jn.14.26).

Second, His stripes or sufferings deliver healing from diverse infirmities. When this is combined with a thankful spirit in all circumstances of life we move from healing to 'wholeness'--all-round health in our bodies, souls and spirits. Is. 53.5; Lk. 17. 17-19 (This what the Jews refer to as *Shalom* or comprehensive peace of God that passes human reasoning and understanding). This requires the taking down of every idol and a replacement by the Lord only as Jehovah shalom (see Judges 6.23-26; 7.28).

Third, His true disciples die to self and the fleshly lifestyle, the source of most of life's frustrations. We begin to live for Christ and His kingdom with increasing impact and enlargement. (Dan. 12. 3, Jn. 6. 63; 12. 24).

Finally, and as we further submit to the leading of Christ's (Holy) Spirit as our Senior Partner and Helper we are able to actualize the manifold spiritual gifts the Lord gave to His people after He defeated Satan and ascended to heaven. We are individually and collectively lifted from glory to glory and accomplish great exploits and shine as stars in our generation until He returns to take us home. (Dan. 12.3; Rom. 8.14, 2 Cor. 3.18; Mt. 25. 4,10).

Welcome to the month of Resurrection, Renewal and Enlargement.

D. Olowu
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