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Realities of the Resurrection

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Do you know what separates Christianity from every other belief system in the history of man? It's not our music, our fellowship or even our giving. **It's the resurrection of Jesus Christ!** Many other religions create and worship with music. They join together regularly (sometimes daily) in community, and many require their adherents to tithe and give to the poor, but their leaders or founders are dead.

Buddha's body was cremated in India, and tradition says that his ashes were placed in boxes and other containers as monuments. Muhammad's body is buried under the famous green dome in Medina, Saudi Arabia.

However, Jesus' tomb is empty. I've been there. You can visit it too. I'd love to have you join me on my next trip to Israel next year, and you can see for yourself!

After He rose from the dead, Jesus walked the earth for 40 days. Over 500 people saw Him in His glorified body (*See 1 Corinthians 15:6.*), and

then He was lifted up into the clouds. Today, He is seated at the right hand of the throne of God, and He's coming back through those clouds very soon!

Partner, do you understand the realities of the resurrection? **Jesus' resurrection should be more than a doctrinal position for you; it should be your hope, strength, and driving force.** You have resurrection power on the inside!

Ephesians 1:19-20

And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

Paul wrote in *Romans 8:11* that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, Partner!

I want to encourage you to take some time and meditate on the following realities of the resurrection. Meditating and acting on these truths will revolutionize your life.

Realities of the Resurrection

First, God planned to rescue you! As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God prophesied that He would redeem and rescue man from his failures.

Genesis 3:14-15

And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Thank God! He never gave up on mankind, and He will never give up on you! God has a plan for you, and He will see it through as long as you cooperate with Him. His plan for you is one of peace and prosperity, and to give you hope and a future! (See *Jeremiah 29:11*.)

Second, God patiently waited for the right people to fulfill His plan of redemption. He found a man named Abram, who was willing to trust and obey Him. God patiently waited for Abram to fully and completely keep his part of the deal, but he eventually did. **God waited patiently because He wanted trillions of sons and daughters to live with Him in Heaven, but to do so, we needed to be cleansed of the death sentence imposed upon us by Adam's sin.** When Abram agreed to offer his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice, the way was made for God to offer His only begotten Son, Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sins!

Genesis 22:16-17

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith

the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

Thank God for His patience! He is always patient and kind because He is love. (See *1 Corinthians 13:4*.)

Never give up! You don't know what sudden acts of blessing God has prepared for you! Remain steadfast and patient. *Hebrews 6:12* tells us that through faith and patience inherit the promises of God!

Third, we were born naturally into sin but born-again into righteousness. God designed Adam and Eve to live in complete peace, joy, holiness, health, and life, but then they chose to obey the serpent instead of God, their nature changed to one of death, despair, sadness, sickness, and sin. The death nature was passed down to each generation.

Romans 5:12

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

Everyone is born a sinner, and sin separated mankind from the Father until God made a way through the blood of His Son, Jesus.

Romans 5:8-11

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to

God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Partner, you've been reconciled to God and reconnected to the Father through the blood of Jesus! **You are not an old sinner; you are a new creation in Christ!**

2 Corinthians 5:17-18

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

Another translation puts it this way: *"Look! The fresh and new has come!"* Another reads: *"He is a new species of being that never before existed."* When you made Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior, you looked the same on the outside, but inside, you were new and filled with the life of God!

Partner, it doesn't matter who your birth parents were or how you lived in the past! The reality of the resurrection is that you are no longer bound by your sins or the sins of your fathers. You are clean, new, and right with God in Christ!

Fourth, you don't have to suffer the consequences of sin because Jesus suffered for you. The payment (or consequence) of sin is death. Without Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, we would have remained under Satan's grip. But God gave us the gift of eternal life through Jesus!

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus, the sinless God-man, became sin on the cross and paid the penalty that you and I owed. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"* (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Let me put it simply—Jesus suffered, so you don't have to! On the cross, Jesus bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, the punishment for our peace was put upon Him, and with His stripes, we were healed! (See Isaiah 53:4-5.)

Then, after they took Jesus' body down from the cross, He descended into Hell, where He suffered through three days and night of untold agony.

Partner, some Christians believe that God wants them to suffer with sickness, lack, and problems so He can teach them a lesson, but the reality of the resurrection is that Jesus paid the full price for sin!

Fifth, you have authority and power, and you are more than a conqueror! When Jesus died on the cross, the devil thought he won. Imagine his glee when the Lord descended into hell. Demons attacked and agonized Jesus for three days, but on the morning of the third day, the High Judge Himself declared from His throne in heaven, "It is enough! The claims of justice have been satisfied!"

The Holy Ghost energized Jesus right there in Hell. *Colossians 2:15* explains that Jesus threw off every principality and power and made a show of them openly!

Jesus grabbed Satan by the back of the neck and led him forth, declaring, "...All power has been given unto Me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18).

Then He transferred that power to you and me when He added, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus then sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, and He expects His enemies to be made His footrest. (See Hebrews 10:13.) **If Jesus is seated, who do you think is supposed to step on His enemies? It's you and me!**

Partner, *Romans chapter eight* explains that you are more than a conqueror through Him that loved you!

Romans 8:37-39

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to sepa-

Partner, Pastor Deborah and I pray for you daily. You are important to us. More importantly, you are important to our Lord! You are always on our minds and in our hearts.

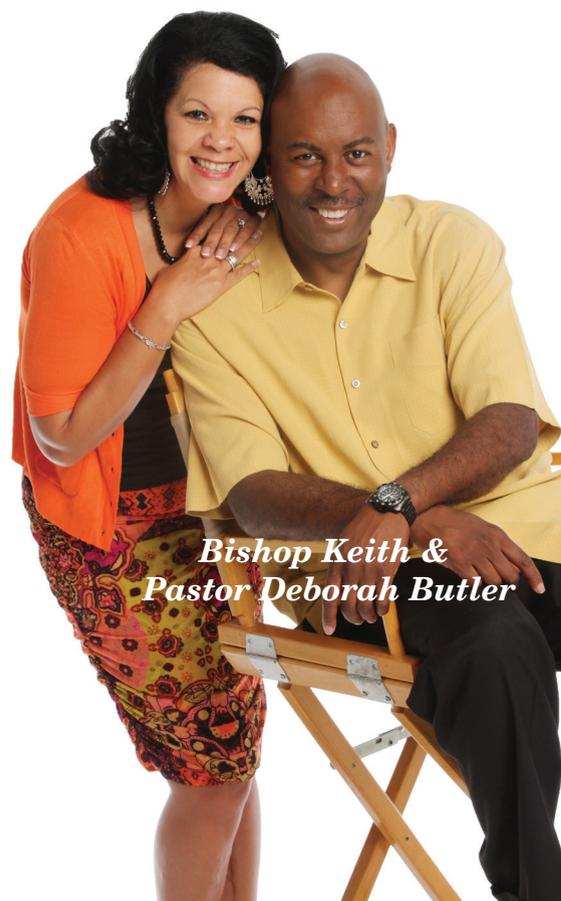
If you have a specific prayer request and would like prayer, please call us at our KBM Partner Care Center at 248.353.3476, ext. 256. Or, if you would like to email your prayer request, you may do so by sending it to partners@keithbutler.org. You may also submit your prayer request through our website at www.keithbutler.org.

rate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**You have mighty authority in Jesus' name!
Angels respond to assist you, and demons
flee in terror when you use His name!**

Regardless of the challenges that come your way, Partner, you can overcome them by declaring the name of Jesus by faith—that is the reality of the resurrection!

In the Master's Love and Service,



**Bishop Keith &
Pastor Deborah Butler**