

Until There's a Death...

...there can be no resurrection! Here's what Jesus told His disciples in Mt. 16:24-25: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* (NIV) In other words, we need to die to ourselves if we want to live a resurrected, victorious, abundant and blessed life!

One of my favorite scriptures and one that I spoke quite often in the late 90's was Galatians 2:20" (For) *"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* What I didn't realize back then was how much of my flesh had not yet been crucified!

When we are first born again or saved, our spirits are sanctified, and through the blood of Jesus we come into a right relationship with the Lord, but for our bodies and souls, it marks the beginning of a lifetime of sanctification! In 1 Cor. 15:31b Paul says *"I die daily (I face death and die to self)."* (AMP) Therein lies what I believe is the key to living an abundant, resurrected life.

If you were to sell your house to someone, would you be able to dictate to them which rooms they could utilize, and which rooms were "off limits?" NO! But isn't this exactly what we do to the Lord? When we get saved, do we give Him the keys to the front door of our lives, but tell Him there are certain areas (rooms) we aren't ready to part with yet! Am I the only one? Do I hear an "Amen?"

I used to be quick to judge others' behavior by saying "Well, if He's not the Lord OF all, then He's not Lord AT all," until the Lord showed me how many "rooms" I still have not surrendered to Him, but the more of me I surrender, I am learning just how dependant upon Him I have become, and I eagerly agree with John 15:5b *"...for without Me you can do nothing."* (NKJV) I don't WANT to do anything without Him!

Now, His resurrection power is able to come alive IN me, not just FOR me, and as Php 4:13 says: *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Pastor Keith once said "You might be asking God for more of Him, but in reality, He is waiting for more of you!" Want more? Listen to Jesus' words again: *"...whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."* Whatever we die to is replaced with His resurrection power!! Amen!