

The Resurrection Power

“I pray that you may know his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18).

Rev. Tom Coop (Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, San Jose) concluded the Good Friday service by inviting the saints who wanted to kneel in silence in prayer to do so next to the tall wooden cross. Kneeling next to the cross and next to me was a sister who wept as she praying. Others came, knelt and prayed for a few seconds and left, but she lingered at the cross. I stood up, thinking about the very many people who were at the foot of the actual cross of Christ. Some wept, to some it was not a big deal to them; while for some, they were perhaps rejoicing because they had gotten rid of a trouble maker. To some their healer was hanging on the cross, to some the one who fed them, to some he was just the son of Joseph, and to some he was the messiah. This is true in your life and mine today. That is, the intensity and seriousness we proclaim him to be determines if we really know who he is and who he is not.

And yes even today some people are still emotionless about the sacrifice on the cross. Now do not get me wrong. I'm not implying that we should be weeping as though Jesus is still on the cross, but responding to his death at that painful cross should definitely get us thinking about the price he paid. This past weekend, is referred to by many as the Holy Weekend and some call it Resurrection Weekend. Some just know that the malls were closed, but have no idea why. Something very unique happened on these days; Jesus died and rose again. Now, resurrection is so important that it is the center piece of the Gospel. Without resurrection, Christianity would not have been in existence or it could not have its power. The empty tomb speaks volumes to the demonic principalities; and it speaks volumes against every power of the enemy that will come against us.

Colossians 2:12 says we have been buried with Jesus in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. May I draw your attention to the fact that all the other founders and teachers of religion and philosophy are in their tombs or graves. However, Christ is raised, and all power in heaven and on earth is given to Him! The power of his death is still in

operation in the lives of those who believe in him. How do I know this? I am a recipient of this power.

In the dark moments of my life, his resurrection power has given me more hope than just remembering about his death. The daily application of this power through prayer has taught me that salvation is stronger than sin; forgiving is stronger than offense and bitterness, and reconciliation more powerful than hatred and revenge. There are moments in this life as you relate with the risen savior that you want to linger at the cross just to draw on this power and in doing so you find that your darkness is overtaken by the light of the cross.

Lingering at the cross produces a powerful relationship between you and the savior. At the cross, you start knowing and becoming aware of his humility, how he walked before men, and how he responded to different situations in life.

The simplicity of the resurrection power is made alive in identifying ourselves with him. As you read this devotion, you may realize that there are dead situations in your life that need the resurrection power. It could be in your relationships, finances, health, and mind. Maybe the devil has robbed you of your joy and happiness, or he has been ministering to you about how impossible your circumstances are, how high your mountain is or the depth of your valley.

Remind the devil of the power of resurrection and that this power will have an impact on your circumstance; just call upon this power and allow the Lord Jesus to be in control. Release your control over your situation and hand it over to the faithful God. He who knows your heart, your desires and fears, has your tomorrow in his hands. All you have to do is to learn to surrender, not in song, but in action. Purpose it in your heart that the power of Easter Sunday is stronger than the power of Good Friday, and that the risen Lord is stronger than the dead Christ. Now that you have been set free by this power go out this week and allow God to use you to serve others, be the change you wish to see in your world. Till next week, stay blessed, remember I love you with the love of God and there is nothing you can do about it.