

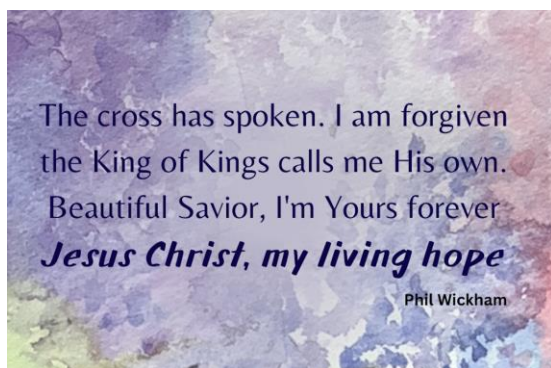


We are women who know the joy of the Spirit-filled life. We live and abide in the love of Jesus, trusting that He is enough to meet every need and satisfy every heart.

The Resurrection Life —Our Identity Changes

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3

Throughout this Easter season, I have been pondering how we live as ones who have been raised from death into life. The Resurrection profoundly changes who we are, what we are called, and how we are identified. I've been wrestling with the phrase "just a sinner, saved by grace." Many times, I've heard it said to excuse sin— as if Jesus cannot overcome the bent to sin. Make no mistake, we are saved by God's grace alone. But do we still find our identity in our sin when Christ has died for our redemption? While Paul speaks of his past life as "the chief of sinners," we don't find him greeting the believers in the church as sinners. Throughout the New Testament, we find the new believers called saints, God's holy people, brothers and sisters, the faithful in Christ Jesus, God's own children, and His heirs.



When we have experienced the transformation that comes from the death and resurrection of Jesus, we are no longer defined by our sin, we are defined by Him, His life for our life; He in us and we in Him. Romans 8:11 tells us that "the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal

bodies by this same Spirit living within you.” By the power of the Holy Spirit within us, we are in Christ. We long to please the One who gave Himself for us. Living by the power of the Spirit becomes our new way of life. Sin is no longer our norm. We have the power to say no to sin, and conviction of the Spirit when sin invades.

Our identity as God’s holy people comes from the very heart of Jesus changing us, resurrecting us to new life for His glory. Our life becomes His life as we “set our minds on things above,” focusing on Jesus. As His nature becomes our nature, it shapes our purpose; it shapes all we say and do. It shapes who we are.