

<Scripture>The word I spoke, the Gospel I proclaimed, did not sway you with subtle arguments; it carried conviction by spiritual power, so that your faith might be built not upon human wisdom but upon the power of God. And yet I do speak words of wisdom to those who are ripe for it, not a wisdom belonging to this passing age, nor to any of its governing powers, which are declining to their end; I speak God's hidden wisdom, His secret purpose framed from the very beginning to bring us to our full glory. The powers that rule the world have never known it; if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." 1 Corinthians 2:4-8 (NEB)

"Have you forgotten that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus we were baptized into his death? By baptism we were buried with him and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so also we might set our feet on a new path of life. We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be slaves of sin, since a dead man is no longer answerable for his sin." "...you are slaves of the master you obey; and this is true whether you serve sin, with death as its result; or obedience, with righteousness as its result." Romans 6:3-4,6,16b (NEB)

"For through the law I died to law - to live for God. I have been crucified with Christ: the life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present bodily life is lived by faith in the Son of God,..." Galatians 2:19-20 (NEB)

"I repeat, you died; and now your life lies hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is manifested, then you too will be manifested with him in glory." Col .3:3-4

"And in union with Christ Jesus he (God) raised us up and enthroned us with him in the heavenly realms,..." Ephesians 2:6 (NEB)

"This is for us the perfection of love, to have confidence on the day of judgement, and this we can have, because even in this world we are as he is." 1 John 4:17 (NEB)

"No one who does not carry his cross and come with me can be a disciple of mine." "So also none of you can be a disciple of mine without parting with all his possessions." Luke 14:27,33 (NEB)

"We must be regarded as Christ's subordinates and as stewards of the secrets of God. Well then, stewards are expected to show themselves trustworthy." 1 Cor. 4:1-2 (NEB)

"Jesus came into Galilee proclaiming the Gospel (good news) of God: 'The time has come; the kingdom of God is upon you; repent and believe the Gospel.'" Mark 1:14b-15

"Then what must we do', they asked, 'if we are to work as God would have us work?' Jesus replied, 'This is the work that God requires; believe in the one whom he has sent.'" John 6:28-29 (NEB)

<Body text>Do we dare to believe? Can it really be true? How can it be true? Everything in us reviles at the idea of the simplicity of the Gospel - you died, Christ lives in you to always obey his Father - let him live! Deep in our hearts we somehow hope this is true, but if it is, why has it escaped us for so long? Why with all my striving toward holiness have I seemed to always come up empty? Could it be that I was striving after righteousness by doing the things the law requires of me? Of course I was, isn't that what I have to do? How can we understand? St. Augustine said "I choose to believe, that I might understand." God has chosen to save those who have faith in the Gospel, even if it flies in the face of all reason... of course it flies in the face of reason, that is why we must exercise faith. Faith, what is it really? Perhaps Hebrews

11:1 can mean simply to believe without seeing, to choose to accept God's Word as true when all of our reason, experience, knowledge, emotions, senses tell us it can't be true. God is true. Jesus is Truth personified. I died, Jesus lives, I am a new creation, I live with his life, I have received a new nature (the nature of my Father), I love with his love, I forgive with his forgiveness, I accept with his acceptance. I choose to live only for the will of God and the glory of God. All this is true of Christ, and lots more. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes He is my life instead of all else I know to be life. Oh this is too much to believe, but I must believe. Holy Spirit, you have been sent to reveal Jesus, you must unfold these mysteries to us, but here and now we choose to believe.

The Holy Spirit, the completion of the revelation of God. Quiet, serving, comforting, convicting, teaching, waiting. Poured out upon the children of God, and yet waiting to be invited to be all God sent him to be. Waiting within each child of God for the opportunity to take charge of our lives and reveal who we really are in the truth of God. Even now in this world we are as Jesus is! When Christ Jesus who is our life is revealed in the moment by moment obedience of our lives to the soft voice of love of the Holy Spirit, then for the first time we will be able to see and know ourselves as we really are. All creation groans waiting for the sons of God to be revealed, that's you and I. New creatures, the old has passed away and the new already is.... waiting to be revealed by the Holy Spirit, revealed in you and me.

The mystery of God's wisdom is unfathomable for the natural mind, even for the greatestt created intelligence in this world. Satan, an angel of light, superior in all ways never understood the plan and wisdom of God. A brother once remarked, "Do you know the greatest mistake that is recorded in the Bible? Satan let a righteous man into Hell!" What a mistake! The sinless righteousness of Jesus the Son of God. When Jesus entered hell for our sakes, He was there to plunder the enemy in His magnificent victory of the cross. Jesus took from Satan any right to molest the children of God, he could only molest the children of Adam. But anyone who put their faith in Jesus as the full deliverance from their sin and sinful Adam nature, could now live free from the dominion of Satan as we let Jesus in us live for God. Oh teach us, Holy Spirit, conquer us in our knowledge that we may become fools for Jesus' sake and gain the life of Christ that you came to reveal. Show us the glory and deliverance of the cross that we may see the love of God that sets us free to live for God through Christ Jesus our Lord. God intends goodness and joy and fullness of life to be our inheritance through the suffering and death of Jesus upon that terrible cross of pain. There is no freedom except in trust and obedience to the God of love that revealed himself in Jesus Christ and seeks to guide and keep us by the present Holy Spirit. Come, Holy Spirit, into all your rightful glory as you immerse us in your power and wisdom, and reveal Jesus Christ to be our life.

Today, in an unprecedented way in the history of the world, God is pouring out his Spirit upon all who will receive. We are at another significant crossroad in God's mysterious plan to bring all things together in his Son. We must choose in this time of awesome grace to allow God to mature us into the image of his Son. Jesus must become our life or we too are in danger of missing the Lord's visitation. May we learn from the Holy Spirit to proclaim Hosanna to the King of Kings. Come Lord Jesus. Father I believe you, Jesus I receive you, Holy Spirit I now free you.

Be happy little children, it is your Father's pleasure to give you His kingdom. Happy Easter little flock from the entire heavenly host. Love one another.