

The Essence of Easter Celebration

(Part 2)

¹ *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.* ² *Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb³ and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"* ⁴ *But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.* ⁵ *As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.* ⁶ *"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.* ⁷ *But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'*" ⁸ *Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.* ⁹ *When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons.* ¹⁰ *She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping.* ¹¹ *When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it.* ¹² *Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country.* ¹³ *These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either.* ¹⁴ *Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen."* (Mark 16:1-8)

Easter celebration is one of the feasts that all the Christians honour and love to celebrate. What Christ had done on the cross by His death for our sins and His resurrection from the death is great event; by this act we are saved and the way had opened to us to have eternal life and live our lives forever with God.

We love and we have to celebrate Christ's victories and all what He offered and lavished for us; but we have as well to fulfill the mandate of Christ that He ordained for us as His church. As we celebrate Christ Resurrection then the mandate for that feast is to obey the commands of Christ and progress in our walk and faith unto Him. As we read above there was an accelerated events after Christ Resurrection, the same should be there in our lives and to continue to obey and progress in our lives as we can read here:

5- A programmed mission work: ¹⁵ *He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.* ¹⁶ *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."* (Mark 16:15-16) Our mission is to go to the whole world. The church composed of the disciples of Jesus, and our mission and goals should include the whole world even to the furthest point. And we need to continue to do that till the Lord will come and take us with Him to heaven. We need to go and preach the word of God, those who respond and are willing to follow Christ and His word we have to baptize them. This point should be clear to us in our mission. Christ wants disciples and true followers of Him. And true disciples are not only obedient to the commands of water Baptism but to all the commands of God. Therefore we are not merely called to preach but are called to make true disciples as Christ command is clear before His ascension to heaven, ¹⁹ *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:19-20)

6- As disciples and workers for the Lord we need to desire and go forward for Holy Spirit Baptism: As we receive the Holy Spirit Baptism the following will be manifested in our lives, *"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons;*

they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ *they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."* (Mark 16:17-18) Speaking in tongues is the first manifestation of the Holy Spirit Baptism. The Holy Spirit Baptism empowers us to have life of prayer and enable us to speak in new tongues as the Holy Spirit enables us. The Holy Spirit Baptism open the way for us for more active spiritual evangelism and more miracles to be done in the name of Jesus to convince others about the resurrection of Christ and His true presence in our lives. And as we are filled with the Holy Spirit the following will happen in our lives:

A. Driving out demons: The Holy Spirit is the finger of God and the Holy Spirit Baptism enable us to cast our demons and help the people to be delivered out from different kinds of demons.

B. Spiritual Protection: As Jesus promised, *"they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all."* As a church when we go forward and evangelize and making new disciples we will be opposing the power of darkness that will try to hinder us and stop us to go forward. But Jesus had promised in *Matthew 16: 18b* the following *"and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* Also when He is sending us He is empowering us with this promise, *"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you."* (Luke 10:19) So Christ for the mission that he entrusted to us to reach the whole world and bring them His word He enable us to overcome devil, demons and power of darkness and all what they might used against us from poisons, witchcraft, arrows of the evil one and sicknesses. So we are armed and well protected by Jesus who had promised us and given to us The Holy Spirit Baptism.

C. Enablement to heal the sick: As we laid hands on those who are sick and pray they will get healed as Jesus promised, *"They will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."* This gift of healing given to us to help the sick and relieve them from their suffering. Christ death on the cross not only took the sins but as well as He took the sicknesses as the word of God dictates, *"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."* (1 Peter 2:24) Christ resurrection for us means healing for the sick in our mission.

7- Preaching the word everywhere and Christ working with us is how we to celebrate Christ's resurrection: ¹⁹ *After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.* ²⁰ *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."* If we really celebrating Christ's resurrection then everyone should see clearly that Christ working with us; not our doing but Christ work, performing and confirming His word.

My Dear and Beloved: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."* (Romans 12:2) It is the time now to renew your mind and be willing to go forward and progressing in your spiritual walk and commitment to Christ. Let us not only celebrate Christ victory for one day in a year, but let us fulfill the mandate and do what Christ ordained for us from assignments all the days of our lives and let us preach the word everywhere and work with Christ as we agree to pray.

My prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to go forward with you to be filled with The Holy Spirit and be equipped with all what you ordained for me in your promises in the Holy Spirit Baptism, preaching the Word, driving out demons, overcoming the power of darkness and working with you till you come and take me with you to heaven, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*