

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

WHO ARE YOU?

RLJ-994

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PART 1: WHY ARE PEOPLE BACKSLIDING?

In this sermon, I want to share with you a revelation that God gave me a few weeks back. In order for you to understand it better, I am leaving some of the writing intact, as I wrote it down when I woke up, the main subject of the message was: "Who are you?"

A MESSAGE RECEIVED ON AUGUST 31, 2005

After many months of struggling over the fact that so many Christians are falling back into sin and cannot keep their walk with Christ, the Lord answered a plaguing question in a message given to me as I just began to wake up around 5.30 a.m. For a long time I have been oppressed by demonic forces telling me that there is no use in sharing the Gospel with people since no one is listening and those who once were strong in the Lord are now weak and caving in to sin. It has taken a great toll on my body, mind and spirit. At times it has been unbearable, but I can testify to the faithfulness of God. **1 Corinthians 10:13**

THE MESSAGE FROM THE LORD

WHO ARE YOU?

If we do not know who we are, we cannot live a life in victory! The Bible tells us in the first chapter of Genesis who we are:

- We are created in the image of God. **Genesis 1:26-27**
- God gave man a commandment, be fruitful, multiply, replenish the earth and take dominion over it. **verse 28**
- All of us living on this planet were born in sin, and unless we have repented of our sins and been born again, we are going to Hell and later the Lake of Fire. Thus there is no future, no plan, and no purpose for a person who is not born again. *They are a citizen of the kingdom of Satan and their father is the Devil!* **John 8:44; Matthew 25:31-46**
- The person who has been born again has been transferred from the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God. **Colossians 1:9-14**
- All things will work out for the believer in Christ. **Romans 8:26-30**
- We are also joint heirs with Christ. **Romans 8:17**
- If we are not led by the Holy Spirit, we have never been born again! **Romans 8:11-16**



A STRANGE OPPRESSION

During the night of September 6, 2005, something strange happened to my wife and me as I found myself suddenly awakened and the room was filled with darkness, fear, anxiety and hopelessness. I was shown different people in our ministry and how they were being defeated by demons. Then thoughts came that our ministry was being ripped apart as one after another were sinking into sin, despair, anger, apathy; they were becoming cold and losing all desire to care for others, love God and walk with Him.

Then my wife began to speak to me and told me that she could not sleep either, and had been fighting a darkness that she could not break through, despite her praying fervently and rebuking evil spirits. We then recognized that we were not facing a small attack, but a massive offensive by powerful principalities, trying to break us and force us to give up the ministry that God had given to us. As we began to pray together in unity, we were able to destroy the attack to the point that we were able to get back to sleep. When we woke up in the morning, both of us were filled with joy and power, and we recognized that Jesus himself had been interceding for us and broken the power of the Devil.

Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:20-25

TAKING AN INVENTORY

During the next few days, I prayed and asked God to show me why so many Christians are being defeated around us. Here is the answer:

1. When a person is newly saved or has just been delivered from demons, he is really excited for the Lord and his prayer life and Bible reading is strong. But after some time, the cares in the world begin to take a toll. Because there is so much work to do, prayer time and Bible reading is getting less and less time, until it stops all together. Listen to Jesus' words: **John 15:1-10; Revelation 2:1-7**
2. Once the Christian has cut himself off from the daily life giving power of God, he begins to get cold, critical and angry. Suddenly he is not content with what God has given him, he wants to be surrounded with things that give him pleasure. Other members in the congregation are criticized for being deadbeats but the critical Christian does not see that he has become a deadbeat himself. **Galatians 5:13-16; James 3:8-18**
3. Spiritual decay will rapidly envelope the backslidden Christian as his warm heart will grow cold, he is no longer caring and there will be a lot of cynicism. He will use phrases such as "I wish I could die" or "I don't care;" moreover, he will use cuss words and state "to hell with it all." Violence is an option and the person is not even ashamed of it because he does not care how many people know about the outbursts of violent anger. **Jude 10-12**

CAN A BACKSLIDER BE REDEEMED?

Only God himself can reverse this trend if others are fervently praying and fasting for the backslider. **James 5:13-20**

Do you have an ear to hear with?