EIGHT PRESENT-TENSE BENEFITS
OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Most believers view the resurrection of the LORD Jesus either through a historical or a prophetical lens. They tend to look backward or forward. Too often, sons and daughters of God fail to grasp the present-tense-benefits that have come to us as a result of this grand, spiritual conquest that took place when the stone rolled away almost two thousand years ago.

PAST TENSE VIEW—When we look back to the crucifixion and resurrection historically, we understand that Jesus tasted “death for everyone” when He assumed our sin debt (Heb. 2:9). The One who did not deserve to die instead took our place in death. The curse of death that should have fallen on billions of wayward souls, swallowing them up eternally, instead fell on the Savior who said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (Jn. 11:25). In Samson-like manner, He pushed against the pillars of this unconquerable stronghold and brought it crashing to the ground, accomplishing more in His death than in His life. When He arose victorious, the spiritual atmosphere surrounding this globe was changed drastically and permanently, for Yeshua (Jesus / “the salvation of Yahweh”) succeeded in saving us from the greatest archenemy of the human race.

FUTURE TENSE VIEW—The past tense view awakens within believers the prophetical expectation that one day, in the not-so-distant future, we will also conquer death, when “the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the LORD in the air” (1 Th. 4:16-17). “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY” (1 Cor. 15:54). This is the spectacular and wonderful future scenario, but if we limit this glorious past event to only a future application, we have missed a grand portion of our inheritance as “children of the resurrection” (Lk. 20:36). So let’s review the present-tense-benefits that have been passed to us as a part of our glorious inheritance.

EIGHT “PRESENT TENSE” BENEFITS OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

1. DELIVERANCE FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” (Eph. 2:4-5)

Read these two verses carefully. When Jesus came out of the grave, believers were delivered from spiritual death right then. We were “made alive together with Christ,” resurrected from the grips of sin. When we received the resurrected Savior in our hearts, He began the resurrection process. Just like Adam in his fallen state died spiritually then began dying physically, so believers are resurrected first spiritually on their way to a complete physical resurrection at the coming of the LORD. God puts a “new spirit” within us (Ezk. 36:26).

2. RESTORATION OF SPIRITUAL BREATH
After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared in the upper room and “breathed” on His disciples, saying, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (Jn. 20:22). This was a restoration of what Adam lost in the beginning. The Bible explains that “the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being [a living soul]” (Gen. 2:7 NKJV, KJV). After the rebellion, Adam and Eve lost the breath of God. They may have retained breath naturally, but not spiritually. God “breathes” His own divine essence. The word “inspiration” means to breathe into. When Adam sinned, he lost divine breath in his spirit, so he could no longer lived an “inspired” life—full of divine wisdom, knowledge and love. Jesus came out of the grave with the passion to restore this breath of inspiration, to breathe into us the life-giving attributes of God’s character and image, and make us “living souls” once again.

3. JUSTIFICATION AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 4:25 reveals that Jesus was “delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.” To be “justified” mean to be legally acquitted of all guilt, and reckoned righteous, just as if we never sinned. What an amazing truth! “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:12). Now He has made us righteous in His sight, given us “the gift of righteousness” and even named us “the righteousness of God in Christ” (Ro. 5:17, 2 Cor. 5:21).

4. HOPE

Peter launched his first epistle with the praise-statement, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Pt. 1:3). At one time, we had “no hope, without God in this world” (Eph. 2:12). Then “the God of hope” filled us “will all joy and peace in believing” (Ro. 15:13). Hope is desire married to expectation. The most hopeless scenario in this world is death, but because Jesus conquered death and gave His people the gift of immortality, we have endless, boundless hope—in every situation.

5. HEALING

Malachi 4:2 prophesies of the resurrection with wonderful imagery, “But to you who fear My name the Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.” He was a healer before the resurrection, before the complete price was paid for us. How much more did He come out of the grave with a passion and power to heal us completely: body, mind, soul and spirit. He is Yahweh-Rapha (the LORD our healer), the Great Physician, who now presents to every human being the invitation, “Do you desire to be made whole?” (Jn. 5:6)

6. PEACE, WHOLENESS AND PROSPERITY

After Jesus arose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples several times greeting them with the word, “Peace” (most likely, He actually spoke the Hebrew word “Shalom”). Shalom is a rich
spiritual term with multiple meanings including: peace, rest, welfare, health, wholeness, happiness and prosperity in every area of life. The “chas- tisement of our peace (Heb. shalom) was upon Him” (Is. 53:5). In other words, He went through the mind-piercing pain of Calvary, crowned with thorns, so we could experience being crowned with life. Now “He is our peace” and we have received “peace with God,” “peace from God” and the “peace of God that passes understanding” (Eph. 2:14, 2 Cor. 1:2, Ph. 4:7).

7. DAILY RENEWAL

Second Corinthians 4:16 encourages those who are troubled, “Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.” The cells in our physical bodies are constantly renewed by fresh blood removing death-dealing toxins and infusing every cell with life-giving oxygen from the lungs and nutrients from the digestive system. And so it is with our spirits. The blood of Jesus flows through us constantly, removing the toxin of the lower nature and infusing us with the resurrection-life of the Word and the Spirit, constantly renewing our status of victory and righteousness. This is a “mini-resurrection” on a personal and spiritual level that takes place over and over again all day long, as we abide under Jesus’ Lordship. No wonder, “No weapon formed against you shall prosper” (Is. 54:17)

8. ULTIMATE VICTORY AND TOTAL DOMINION

Let’s end with the scripture passage we began with, yet adding the verse that follows:

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenlies in Christ Jesus. (Eph. 2:4-6)

To be raised up to sit together with Christ is to be enthroned with Him in a position of power, authority, rest, victory and dominion. He has made our enemies our footstool. All things are under His feet and now, all things are under our feet as well. This is the restoration of the dominion Adam and Eve lost in the beginning, and this speaks of absolute victory over every negative we face in this world—not just historically and not just futuristically, but right here, right now. Yes, “this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith” (1 Jn. 5:4).

Begin claiming your resurrection-rights today! Jesus bought them; now they are yours to enjoy!