

No man is an Island

Today is resurrection Sunday 2007. It's the day we remember, celebrate, think about, ponder on and for some people its one of the only days they attend church. What a pity is that!

Resurrection is all about life: Life with God. Life that is full. Life that is abundant. We have that life here in The House. We are part of the family of God and His presence is with us. The resurrection is about having a thriving connection with God and man through the power of God's spirit. **God just doesn't want to reconnect with us through Jesus Christ he wants a thriving connection with us.** A connection that brings with it destiny, purpose, vision comes from the power of the Spirit.

Jeremiah 10:23-24

O Lord I know the way of man is not in himself
It is not in man who walks to direct his steps.
O Lord correct me, but with justice
Not in your anger lest you bring me to nothing.

John 10:10

I have come that you may have life and life abundantly.

Your destiny is not in you alone.

Your future is sitting next to you, behind you and even in front of you.

Our lives are not complete without eternal and external influences. We need God in our world; we need the life of the Spirit in our world. It's a thriving, pulsating life from and through God. God uses all of these things to bring success.

CCC is all about 'connect' – my future is in someone else.

Rev John Donne in the 16th century wrote a short poem with the words 'no man is an island contained within'. We can set ourselves up for success if we hear what God is saying to us. **No man is an island.** Jeremiah says 'the way of a man is not in himself'. No man can do it all by himself. He needs God in his world and he needs people in his world.

A wrong philosophy that runs through society goes something like this.

I have God in me. I have the Spirit of God in me. Thus it is okay to miss church because I have God in me and that's the only thing that matters. Jeremiah clearly speaks out against this seemingly harmless mindset. We are not alone. We are not to face life alone.

Resurrection Sunday is about us not facing life alone. It's about having a thriving life with God and others.

There are six key influencers for a thriving life.

1. You find your future/purpose/destiny in God's word.

- a. Psalms 119:105 "your word o Lord is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
- b. God's word makes us clean, whole or straight. Psalms 119:9 How can a young man keep his way clean? By taking heed according to your word.
- c. We need to take great pleasure in God's word.
- d. Its like a contrast button on the computer/TV it helps us focus on life

2. We need the power of the spirit. The resurrection power.

- a. Acts 1:8 'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...and you shall be my witnesses'.
- b. The letter kills but the Spirit gives life
- c. World War 2 the Italian army came through and forced all the missionaries out of Ethiopia. The missionaries were worried that when they reentered Ethiopia they would find very minimal Christians. But what they found was a staggering 60,000 spirit filled people being lead by spirit filled leaders.
- d. A Man can see in the distance another man pumping water and as he watches he is amazed that the man is so strong. He seems to be going and going. The water is flowing continuously. As he walks towards the man pumping he is still amazed. This man is amazing. He is able to pump so continuously. Our cautious observer walks even closer and still the man hasn't stopped. Finally as he gets close enough to see the man's face he realizes that the man is in fact a mechanical man who is wired to an 'artisan bore'. The man wasn't powering the pumping of water; the water was empowering the man to pump. This is essentially the difference between life with the spirit, (being powered by the water) and life without the spirit (having to work the pump).

3. We need the will of God

- a. Ephesians 1:17-18. We all need to walk in the will of God. ***A secret for you. If you are committed to doing the will of God you will. The secret is not finding the will of God its being committed to doing the will of God***

4. We need genuine friendships

- a. Proverbs 27:17 Iron Sharpens Iron.
- b. We become who we are because of the friendships we keep. Who you are is linked to who you hang with.
- c. We need friends in our world. A friend is someone who is walks in when all others are walking out.

5. We need a community of faith

- a. Hebrews 10:25 Forsake not yourself the gathering together as some would have you do. We grow and develop better in a community of believers. We thrive when we are with people who know us, accept us and champion us.
- b. The community of believers is the church. God reveals the manifold wisdom of God to the church.
- c. No man is an island. At the House we are not like those who are carried away and never go to church we come not because we have to but because we want to.

6. We need an attitude of humility

- a. Let this mind be in you Philippians 2:5

- b. Being teachable occurs in the mind. It's a mindset we take on board.
- c. Instruction to a wise man makes him wiser.
- d. Famous preacher Jonathan Edwards once said, 'Nothing sets a person so much as out of arms length of the devil as humility.
- e. Humility is not servitude; it's a mindset, a way of acting towards others.

Our destiny for a thriving life is wrapped up with God. It's connected with people. Today is resurrection Sunday 2007. A day when we can remember Jesus Christ was raised from the dead for our life. A thriving life with God and man!