

### #3 Being Witnesses of the Resurrected, Ascended, and All-inclusive Christ

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#### I. In the book of Acts the apostles and the disciples were witnesses of Christ:

**Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses ...unto the uttermost part of the earth.

**A.** According to the revelation in the book of Acts, everyone who is raised up and sent out by the Lord is a witness of the Lord.

**Acts 26:16** for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you;

**B.** In the New Testament the meaning of witness is primarily to bear a living testimony of Jesus Christ in His crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

**C.** Testifying requires experiences of seeing and enjoyment concerning the Lord or spiritual things; it is different from merely teaching.

**D.** The Lord appointed Paul as a minister and a witness.

① A minister is for the ministry; a witness, for a testimony.

② The ministry is related mainly to the work, to what a minister does; a testimony is related to the person, to what a person is.

③ Paul was a witness of the things in which he had seen the Lord and of the things in which the Lord would appear to him.

**E.** In His ascension the Lord carries out His ministry in the heavens through witnesses, who testify of Him in His resurrection life and with His ascension power and authority. [Mon]

#### II. The Christ revealed in Acts is in resurrection:

**Acts 2:32** This Jesus God has raised up, of which we all are witnesses.

**Acts 4:33** And with great power the apostles gave testimony of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus...

**A.** Through death Christ entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection:

① Because Christ is the living One with an indestructible life, death is not able to hold Him.

**Acts 2:24** Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.

② He delivered Himself to death, but death had no way to retain Him; rather, death was defeated by Him, and He rose up from it.

**B.** We need to know Christ in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection.

**C.** Christ's resurrection was the focus of the apostles' testimony:

**Acts 1:22** Beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which He was taken up from us, one of these should become a witness of His resurrection with us.

① God glorified His Servant Jesus through His resurrection and in His ascension.

② The resurrection of the Lord Jesus points back to His incarnation, humanity, human living, and God-ordained death and points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back. [Tue]

#### III. The Christ revealed in Acts is in ascension:

**Acts 2:33** Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.

**A.** Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority.

**B.** The Lord's ascension was His initiation into His living and ministry in the heavens; this initiation brought Him into a new realm, that is, into the heavens where He now has His living and is ministering there.

**C.** The Lord's ascension brought Him into a new stage—the stage of a resurrected man living in the heavens as the center of God's administration:

① This resurrected One is now sitting in the heavens to execute God's administration.

② The resurrected Christ ascended to the heavens to be exalted by God and to be given the kingship, the lordship, and the headship over all things.

③ The ascended Christ has also obtained the throne, the glory, and all the authority in the universe.

**D.** The ascended Christ is the Lord of all to possess all:

**Acts 2:36** Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made Him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you have crucified.

① The lordship of Christ is one of the most important aspects of what He has obtained in His ascension.

② Since the lordship of Christ was fully established in His ascension, we—the members of His Body—need to realize this heavenly fact.

**E.** The ascended Christ is God's Anointed to carry out God's commission to work out the spreading of the gospel and the building up of the church. [Wed]

#### IV. The Christ revealed in Acts is the all-inclusive Christ.

**Acts 3:25** You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant which God covenanted with your fathers, saying to Abraham, “And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.”

**26** To you first, God, having raised up His Servant, has sent Him to bless you in turning each of you away from your wicked deeds.

**A.** Christ is the Author of life:

① As indicated by the Greek word rendered “Author,” Christ is the origin or Originator of life; He is the Author, the Chief Leader, of life.

② In Acts 3 we see the imparting of life into others, which is to propagate Christ; for such a propagation, we need the Lord as the Author of life, the source of life.

③ As the Author of life, Christ is the holy and righteous One.

**B.** Christ is God’s Servant:

① God glorified His Servant Jesus through His resurrection and ascension.

② As the seed of Abraham and the Servant of God, Christ is the One in whom all the families of the earth—all the races, colors, and nationalities—will be blessed.

③ God sent back the ascended Christ as a blessing by pouring out the Spirit on the day of Pentecost; hence, the Spirit whom God poured out was the Christ whom God raised and exalted to the heavens. [Thu]

**C.** Christ is the Leader and Savior:

① God exalted the man Jesus as the highest Leader, the Prince, the Ruler of the kings to rule over the world, and the Savior to save God’s chosen people.

② Leader is related to His authority, and Savior is related to His salvation; He rules sovereignly over the earth with His authority that the environment might be fit for God’s chosen people to receive His salvation.

**D.** Christ is the Son of Man:

**Acts 7:56** And he said, Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

① Acts 7:56 reveals that Christ is the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God to be the comfort, encouragement, and strength to the one martyred for Him.

② Stephen saw the ascended Christ as the Son of Man; this indicates that the Christ who is in the heavens still has His humanity; He still possesses His human nature.

**E.** Christ is God:

**Acts 20:28** Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers to shepherd the church of God, which He obtained through His own blood.

① Christ as our God is the Purchaser of the church, having obtained the church with His own blood.

② God secured, purchased, and redeemed the church with “His own blood”, “the blood of Jesus His Son”.

③ Christ died on the cross as the God-man, and the blood that He shed there for our redemption was not only the blood of the man Jesus but also the blood of the God-man.

④ The blood through which God obtained the church is God’s own blood. [Fri]

**F.** Christ is the Lord of all:

**Acts 10:36** The word which He sent to the sons of Israel in announcing the gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (this One is Lord of all).

① All in Acts 10:36 refers to all peoples.

② The ascended Christ is the Lord of all the different races and peoples on earth; with Him, there is no respect of persons.

**G.** Christ is the judge:

**Acts 10:42** And He has charged us to proclaim to the people and solemnly testify that this is the One who was designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

① Christ has been designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

② Christ is a man to judge the world, designated by God in righteousness and proved by God’s raising Him from the dead.

**Acts 17:30** Therefore, having overlooked the times of ignorance, God now charges all men everywhere to repent,

**31** Because He has set a day in which He is to judge the world in righteousness by the man whom He has designated, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead.

**H.** Christ is the Lord Jesus, the object of the believers’ faith:

① To believe in the gospel is mainly to believe in Jesus Christ.

② To believe in the Lord Jesus is to stand on the person of Christ and all that He has accomplished, both of which constitute the belief, the faith, of God’s New Testament economy.

**1 Tim 1:4** Nor to give heed to myths and unending genealogies, which produce questionings rather than God’s economy, which is in faith. [Sat]

**Experience① : Christ became the life giving Spirit in resurrection and He is always in you in an invisible way**

**Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.**

Christ is now our Savior in resurrection, and the Spirit is Christ in resurrection. After Christ was resurrected, He became a person wholly in resurrection. Today some Christians know Christ in His incarnation and crucifixion. But like Paul we should aspire not only to know Christ in His death but even the more to know Him in His resurrection. We need to know Him in the power, sphere, and element of His resurrection.

In Acts 1, Peter went on to say, “It is necessary therefore that of the men who accompanied us all the time in which the Lord Jesus went in and went out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which He was taken up from us, one of these should become a witness of His resurrection with us”. The Lord’s resurrection is the focus of the apostles’ testimony. It refers back to His incarnation, humanity, human living on earth, and God-ordained death, and points forward to His ascension, ministry and administration in heaven, and coming back. Thus the apostles’ testimony of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, is all-inclusive, as depicted in the whole book of Acts. They preached and ministered the all-inclusive Christ as revealed in the entire Scripture.

**For new ones**

**OL : Through death Christ entered into another realm, the realm of resurrection.**

Christ became the flesh in His incarnation. And in His resurrection, Christ became the life giving Spirit. After the Lord resurrected, the Lord trained the disciples to realize and experience His invisible presence for 40 days.

**Acts 1 : 3 To whom also He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many irrefutable proofs, appearing to them through a period of forty days and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God.**

**FN “presented” :** This was to train the disciples to practice and enjoy the Lord’s invisible presence.

**FN “appearing” :** The resurrected Christ dwelt in the disciples, because He had breathed Himself as the Spirit into them on the day of His resurrection. His appearing does not mean that He had ever left them; it simply means that He made His presence visible to them, training them to realize and enjoy His invisible presence all the time.

All the new ones, please realize that all the blessings of the New Testament are in the resurrection. Before His resurrection, Christ was with His disciples in visible way, but after His resurrection, He became the invisible life giving Spirit and entered into them. Actually the presence of the life giving Spirit is much closer to the presence in flesh. The presence “among” people is progressing to the presence “inside” people. But since this further progressing presence is invisible, so it may not be easy for you to understand. For you to be blessed in the Lord, it is very important to understand this invisible presence.

**Prayer :** “Oh Lord Jesus, You became the life giving Spirit in resurrection and You are dwelling in me eternally, 24 hours a day. Help me to experience this invisible presence. So that I can experience You subjectively in my study, club activity, job hunting and even in my sleep.”

**Experience② : Understand correctly the position of the ascension of Christ, and stand against Satan boldly with the saints and get victory**

After the resurrected Christ breathed the life-giving Spirit into the disciples as life, life supply, and everything related to their inner man, they all became God-men, men who had been mingled with God. They were filled with the divine life essentially, but they were not yet qualified to carry out God’s economy. Therefore, the resurrected Christ had to ascend to the heavens to be exalted by God and to be given the kingship, the lordship, and the headship over all things. He also obtained the throne, the glory, and all the authority in the universe. While the one hundred twenty were praying on the earth for ten days, God was making the exalted Christ to be the King, the Lord, and the Head of all things. God was giving the authority, the throne, and glory to His exalted One—Christ as the One in ascension.

His resurrection is not sufficient to equip us, qualify us, and authorize us. Therefore, we also need His ascension. Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ’s ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority...We can compare our position to the presidency. In the United States the president must be inaugurated. When he is inaugurated into office, he is put into a position that authorizes, equips, and qualifies him to act and exercise the power of the presidency.

**For Young Working Saints/Graduate Students**

**OL : Whereas resurrection is a matter of life, Christ's ascension is a matter of position, and position is a matter of authority.**

Christ has been the Lord before His ascension but at His ascension, He was inaugurated as the Lord of all. For example the president of US can not be the president unless He goes through the Inauguration Day to obtain the position of the president even though He won the election and was selected to be the president. The position of the president goes with his authority and power. This matter of position exists also in the companies and graduate schools. There are managers in companies and above them there are directors and then executives and president on the top. And each position has its authority. God is the God of order. So you need to understand well about the position and be careful not to overstep the authority you are under. And you need to have consultation with the person in charge to accomplish your job. This understanding helps you to understand Christ's authority in His ascension.

For example, suppose you preached the gospel to your classmates and got attacked because of this and you feel shrinking back. You need to understand the high position and authority the ascended Lord had attained. You need to order Satan with authority in ascension together with your spiritual partner and the brothers and sisters who lead you. You do not fear and pray for that Satan would not be cruel to you. This kind of prayer of pleading shows that you do not understand the Lord's position and authority.

**Prayer : "Oh Lord Jesus, I am in fear because of the bad rumor caused by my preaching. But this is the good opportunity to experience the position of Christ's ascension. I would not be afraid of Satan's attack and pray in the Body with the high position and authority that the ascended Christ had obtained. Lord has that authority and that authority was given to the church."**

Hymn870 Spiritual Warfare - Standing Up

1) Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner, It must not suffer loss:  
From vict'ry unto vict'ry His army shall He lead,  
Till every foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.

C) Stand up for Jesus Ye soldiers of the cross;  
Lift high His royal banner,  
It must not, it must not suffer loss.  
2) Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey;

Forth to the mighty conflict In this His glorious day.  
Ye that are men, now serve Him Against  
unnumbered foes;  
Let courage rise with danger, And strength to strength  
oppose.

3) Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone;

The arm of flesh will fail you; Ye dare not trust your own.

Put on the Gospel armor, And, watching unto prayer,  
Where duty calls, or danger, Be never wanting there.

4) Stand up! Stand up for Jesus! The strife will not be long:

This day the noise of battle, The next the victor's song;

To him that overcometh A crown of life shall be;  
He, with the King of glory, Shall reign eternally.

**Experience③ : Learn the lesson of growth of life and the work of diligent service, pass in front of the Judge and become the victor**

**Acts10 : 42** And He has charged us to proclaim to the people and solemnly testify that this is the One who was designated by God to be the Judge of the living and the dead.

**FN "Judge" : At His coming back, before the millennium, the resurrected Christ will judge the living on His throne of glory. This is related to His second coming. After the millennium He will judge the dead on the great white throne. That will be the final clearance of the defiled old creation.**

Here we see that Christ has been designated the Judge of all mankind....The resurrected Christ at His second coming will be the Judge of the living before the millennium on His throne of glory. He will also be the Judge of the dead after the millennium on the great white throne. Therefore, the Lord will exercise God's judgment over all men, over the living and the dead.

Christ, who is the Judge of the living and the dead, can also be experienced and enjoyed as the Redeemer into whom we may believe to receive forgiveness of sins.

Christ is a man to judge the world, designated by God in righteousness, and proved by God's raising Him from the dead.

**For Junior & Senior High School / College Students**

**1 Pet. 4 : 5 Who will render an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.**

**II Tim. 4 : 1 I solemnly charge you before God and Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:**

**2 Proclaim the word; be ready in season and**

out of season; convict, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and teaching.

**FN "His appearing"** : This word proves that, in his life and work, Paul took the Lord's appearing and His kingdom as the incentive and goal. The Lord's appearing will be for judgment, to reward each one of us, and His kingdom will be for His reigning with His overcomers. The apostle not only took these two matters as the incentive and goal for himself but also by these two matters charged Timothy, who was under his leading, to faithfully fulfill his ministry of the word.

Students are supposed to go to the current school through high school exams or college entrance exams. In order to enter that school, you had to pass the entrance exam. Likewise, two lessons are given by the Lord in order to make you become a victor. One is the lesson of growth of life. The other is the service on preaching the gospel, acquiring the material of building the church, combining with other brothers and sisters, building the body of Christ. Everyone have to open up for these two lessons when the Lord comes.

**i ) The lesson of growth of life** : In order to make your life grow, please experience Christ subjectively in daily life, especially in studying. For example, learn to come out of your natural shell, experiencing the Lord, when you feel that you can't do it anymore, or you feel that you do not have the ability to continue.

**ii ) The work of diligent service** : After Paul talked about the judgment of Christ Jesus in II Timothy 4: 1, he said proclaim the word in verse 2. You must live a life to preach the gospel. Preach the word of God on the street, speak the word of God at the family meeting, supply the word of God for encouragement with drip and irrigation, and speak the word of God at the Lord's day's meeting. Whether time is good or bad, you should prepare to proclaim the word and keep speaking.

**Prayer** : "O Lord Jesus, when I feel my limits, I call upon the name of the Lord, I trust in the Lord, I want to experience the wisdom and power of the Lord. It is because you can break through with the Lord what you can't do. I grow in my life every day little by little. In addition, please let me prepare to proclaim the word faithfully and practice speaking. Lord Jesus, strengthen my spirit and make me a student with a witness in growth of life and in service. Amen!" Hymn925