

## Because I Live....You Too Shall Live!

**John 14: 15-19 (LB)** - "If you love me, obey me: and I will ask the Father and He will give you another comforter, and he will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, the Spirit who leads into all truth. I will not abandon you or leave you as orphans in the storm...I will come to you. In just a little while I will be gone from the world, but I will still be present with you. For I will live again...and you will, too."

Scripture shows us the changes that came over Jesus' disciples. During the trial and the arrest they had certainly not been courageous. In fact, they had fled worried about saving their own lives or followed at a great distance. Peter was so fearful that he even denied three times even knowing Jesus. And after their Master's death, the disciples stayed hiding with the doors locked for fear of the Jews. Yet, after that first Easter morning, we find those same men who had been frightened, timid, ineffective...preaching openly, with no fear of anyone. "That which we have heard with our own ears, seen with our own eyes, handled with our own hands, we declare unto you."

It took a great conviction to change these men so drastically...through His spirit they had guidance and strength. They had His wisdom, His peace and His joy! They had boldness, courage and power...qualities they had not had until after that first Easter morning. They felt they were still in touch with Him...in a different way...but in a much more powerful way! They felt that! They knew it! And they shook the Roman Empire until it tottered and fell! They changed the world!

And the miracle of Easter is that you and I are alive with that same fellowship with the risen Christ! We cannot believe the fact of the Resurrection for ourselves until the living Christ lives within our hearts....but then, ah, then, we will know and have the same sense of His nearness and His power that the disciples experienced that first Easter. This is the real meaning of Easter. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us that life for us does not stop when death comes. And eternal life which may be ours now, by faith in Christ, does not end when the soul leaves the body....we live on and on. "Because I live, ye shall live also." This is the message of Easter!

**Prayer:** Gracious and loving God, let the message of Easter ring true in our lives. Empower us to not only sense your spirit within us in a new way, but grant us the boldness and the courage and the power to "Go ye into the world and lo, I am with you always." May we bring your story and your light into the lives of others so that they, too, might know and live the miracle of that first Easter. For your awesome love, your grace, your forgiveness and your miracle of Easter we give you thanks this day. In your precious name we pray. Amen