

He is RISEN!

2 Corinthians 5: 17-18 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God...

The great Easter truth is not just that we will have eternal life/new life after death...even though that is a great thing...but that we are to have eternal life/new life beginning now by the power of the resurrection.

Jesus' disciples had fellowship with him when he walked with them during his ministry but it was truly their continuing fellowship with the Risen Lord through the years that became the integrating, guiding and sustaining power in their lives. Through His spirit they had they had wisdom, peace and joy. They had a new boldness, courage and power that they had not experienced until after the first Easter morning.

They were in touch with Him...in a different way...but in a more powerful way. They knew He was with them even as He had promised.... "Go ye into the world and lo, I am with you always." They felt it! They knew it...from the inside out!

And you and I today can experience that same fellowship with the Risen Christ through the Holy Spirit. Indeed, we cannot truly believe the facts of the resurrection for ourselves until the living Christ lives in our hearts. Then we will truly have a sense of His nearness and power that the disciples experienced... and then we, too, will KNOW!

And our lives will be guided by Christ...
our problems solved with His wisdom...
we will find strength in our weaknesses...
we will be victorious by His grace...
we will comforted in our sorrow...
and be filled with joy despite circumstances!

This is the Easter message: the empty tomb proclaims to each of us... He is not here...He is risen...and we have NEW life beginning now and after death by the power of the resurrection!

Prayer: Precious Lord, we have trouble wanting to experience your walk to the cross, your humiliation, your suffering, your loneliness that led you to death on a cross...nails pounded through your flesh, agony...but help us comprehend your death so that we can begin to understand the MIRACLE of your resurrection. We thank you for your promise to always be with us and ask that you would fill us with your Holy Spirit so that we might experience what the disciples of so long ago felt when you came to them in nearness and power like they had never known before. And then empower us to be your witnesses and your love to a world that needs to hear your story. For your awesome love, your grace, and your endless forgiveness we give you thanks this day. In your precious name we pray. Amen.