

Beyond the Cross

Resurrection Day

... weeping may stay for the night,
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:5b

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!

There are no more glorious words in all of history. These words make me want to sing and dance and shout and run around waving my arms in the air. LOVE WON! In fact, love didn't just win; it crushed death forever. By His death, Jesus declared His love for us. Through the resurrection, God made clear to everyone everywhere that He was, is, and always will be sovereign over everything—even death itself. Love over death, that's what I call victory. The powers of darkness didn't just lose; they were routed!

Because Christ is risen, we can proclaim the words of Romans 8:38-39 with complete confidence: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Jesus' love won, and in winning, it made an entirely new kind of life possible. Our stony hearts can be exchanged for living, beating hearts of flesh, hearts of joy, hearts of compassion and grace and love. It's hard to comprehend, hard to accept. But there's the key. Jesus holds this new life out to us. And because of His love, all we have to do is accept it.

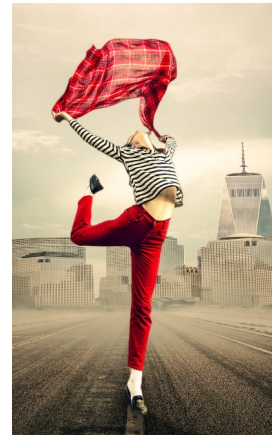
Yes, we will spend the rest of our lives working out *how* this new life of love works, how to not just believe it's real in our heads, but walk out the reality of love's life in our day-to-day-ness. Yes, there will still be challenges and stumbles and grief in this world. But because His love won, we can persevere through challenges, take hold of God's hand to pick ourselves up from stumbles, and remember that mourning does not have the last word. The resurrected Christ can turn our mourning into rejoicing.

The empty cross, the empty tomb. They are world-shattering declarations that God is love and His love will always prevail. The most glorious words affirm this truth: Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!



How can you walk out the reality of love's life in you this week?

In what areas of your life has God turned mourning into dancing?



EXERCISE:

1. Commit this time to God, asking Him to speak to you throughout this exercise.
2. Listen to the song “Mourning into Dancing” (https://youtu.be/G4_-_it3mYk?si=3LOMpRSHmC8w4v6T), based on Psalm 30:5 & 11-12.
3. Now consider the lyrics (below). What words or phrases catch your attention? Ask the Lord to reveal to you why those words or phrases speak to you.
4. Listen to the song again or just re-read the lyrics. Notice how you react to the words. Ask God to show you why you’ve reacted this way.
5. Finally, ask God what He wants to say to you through the song and/or your reactions to this exercise.

“Mourning Into Dancing”

He's turned my mourning
Into dancing again
He's lifted my sorrows
I can't stay silent
I must sing
For His joy has come

He's turned my mourning
Into dancing again
He's lifted my sorrows
I can't stay silent
I must sing
For His joy has come

Where there once
Was only hurt
He gave His healing hand
Where there once
Was only pain
He brought comfort
Like a friend
I feel the sweetness
Of His love
Piercing my darkness
I see the bright
And morning sun
As it ushers in
His joyful gladness

Your anger lasts
For a moment in time
But Your favor is here
And will be with me for
All my lifetime

You've turned my mourning
into dancing again
You've lifted my sorrows
And I can't stay silent
I must sing for Your joy has come

Composer, Lyricist: Ron Kenoly© 1992
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