

Marked to Celebrate: Easter 2024

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The celebration of Easter is a significant event in the Christian calendar, a mark of our faith and a testament to the power of God's love and sacrifice. It's a time of joy and reflection, a moment to look back at our journey and forward to what lies ahead. This Easter 2024, let's delve deeper into the essence of this celebration and why we are indeed marked to celebrate.

God Calls Us to Celebrate Our Freedom

Our celebration of Easter is not just a religious custom but a divine calling. In Exodus 13:8-9, it says,

"On the seventh day you must explain to your children, 'I am celebrating what the Lord did for me when I left Egypt.' This annual festival will be a visible sign to you, like a mark branded on your hand or your forehead. Let it remind you always to recite this teaching of the Lord: 'With a strong hand, the Lord rescued you from Egypt.'"

This call to celebrate our freedom is a reminder of our liberation from sin and our journey towards salvation.

Our Celebration is a Mark of God's Power

The celebration of Easter is a powerful testament to God's mighty hand that brought us out of our own metaphorical 'Egypt'. Exodus 13:16 tells us,

"This ceremony will be like a mark branded on your hand or your forehead. It is a reminder that the power of the Lord's mighty hand brought us out of Egypt."

Hence, our celebration is not just an act of faith, but a mark of God's power and grace.

Marked with the Holy Spirit to Reach Others

Moreover, our celebration of Easter is a mark of the Holy Spirit, a seal of our faith that empowers us to reach others. Ephesians 1:13-14 says,

"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

Through the Holy Spirit, we are marked and empowered to extend the love and grace we received to others.

Jesus Celebrated What He Would Do for Us; We Celebrate What He Did for Us

Jesus himself looked forward to commemorating the Passover meal with his disciples, knowing it would be his last before his suffering. Luke 22:14-16 tells this story,

"When it was time, he sat down, all the apostles with him, and said, 'You've no idea how much I have looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I enter my time of suffering. It's the last one I'll eat until we all eat it together in the kingdom of God.'"

Jesus is Knocking at the Door of Our Community

We must remember that Jesus is continually reaching out to us, knocking on the doors of our hearts. Revelation 3:20 states,

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me."

Our celebration of Easter is an opportunity for us to hear his knock and open our hearts to him and extend an invitation to others.

Be Doorkeepers That Invite and Serve Our Community

As we celebrate Easter, let us be doorkeepers, inviting and serving our community, extending the love and grace we have received. Psalms 84:10 urges us,

"For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness."

Let's Celebrate Together

Easter 2024 is a time for us to come together in joy, fellowship, and celebration. It's a time for us to remember and rejoice, to reflect and renew our commitment to our faith. So let's celebrate, for we are all marked to celebrate.