

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

### October 7th, 2018 - Holy Spirit Power

#### Part 19 – The Raising of the Dead in The Working of Miracles

Jesus is the resurrection and the life so it's no surprise that Jesus raised the dead and commissioned his disciples, which includes you and I, to do the same. Whether we like to talk about it or not, we'll all rise from the dead one day – if the rapture does not come before that – either to the resurrection of the just or the resurrection of the damned. If you don't believe in raising the dead now, that doesn't alter the future because all will be raised from the dead in the future for judgement. The Raising of the Dead would come under The Working of Miracles.

Let's read about the first time the miracle of raising the dead occurred Jesus' ministry. It's found in **Luke 7:11-14** where Jesus raises the son of the widow of Nain. It says; *“Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.”*

We see that there were many disciples, a large crowd around them and a large crowd at this funeral procession. Jesus wasn't there to attend the funeral, but the procession was passing by him. Death could not operate in its power in the presence of the Jesus, and even when this funeral procession walks by, the dead man is brought to life by one act of compassion. Jesus was looking to be a benefit for this woman, regardless of all the emotional upset that was surrounding her with both her husband and son dead.

You don't read about Jesus attending any funerals. Even when his good friend is about to die, Jesus is not rushing to what would seem to be a last rites chaplain speech, or help the family make funeral preparations. No, Jesus just let him die. He left him in the grave for four days before even arriving. He missed the funeral, knowing all along that he would raise him from the dead when in the natural it seemed impossible. If you look at this story in the natural, you'd think that Jesus was heartless, didn't care by showing up for the funeral or going ahead of time to heal Lazarus. But we can't look at this with natural human eyes.

Let's read the story in **John 11** and we're going to break it down for you. It says starting in verses 1-8; *“Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.” When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”*

That's quite the story line isn't it. After waiting two more days, he tells his disciples they're heading back into Judea where his life was just threatened by being stoned to death. Lazarus had a great friendship with Jesus who loved him, and Jesus was willing take the risk of being stoned to death by the religious leaders while raising him from the dead. That's the kind of friend you want to have on your side, willing to cross the enemy lines to get you out alive.

**Verses 11-15** continues by saying; *“These things He said, and after that He said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.” Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get*

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

*well.” However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may **believe**. Nevertheless, let us go to him.”*

In the natural human intellect, it seemed like Jesus was not operating in the Spirit, for he allows Lazarus to die when he could have prevented this. However, his timing is perfect, because he already knows that God will raise him from the dead.

We continue in **verses 23-26** where Jesus is talking to Martha and says; *“Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who **believes** in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and **believes** in Me shall never die. Do you **believe** this?”*

You can see that Jesus took it a step further than simply raising the dead, he affirms who he is and that those who believe in him, though they die physically will live forever spiritually. He is not just giving lip service but rather backs it up with raising the dead to life, physically for an extended time on earth and spiritually for eternity.

This story concludes in **verses 38-44** where it says; *“Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would **believe** you would see the glory of God?” Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may **believe** that You sent Me.” Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”*

This miracle was the next best to that of Jesus’ own resurrection, in fact Lazarus was in the tomb one day more than Jesus! After this miracle some of the chief priests and the Pharisees say in **verse 47-48**; *“Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, “What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will **believe** in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”*

Do you see how many times the word **BELIEVE** is mentioned? Jesus was being emphatic that people need to believe and have faith in him. When the Gifts of Miracles are in operation, it always disrupts the security of the religious establishment and that’s why for the most part, they will fight tooth and nail to keep the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit under control or completely out of the Church. The Pharisees knew that people would believe in Jesus if they didn’t silence him. It’s the same today.

Another story of Jesus raising someone from the dead is the account of Jairus’s daughter. We read it in **Luke 8:40-56**, but we’ll start at verse 49; *“While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.” But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only **believe**, and she will be made well.” When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.”*

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

Notice that Jesus only allowed Peter, James and John to go into the room where the dead girl was, and kept outside those who were mourning her death, who ridiculed him for saying that she was only sleeping. Jesus knew that she would rise from the dead, that's why he could say she was only sleeping. This miracle of raising the dead required surrounding himself with those who **believe**, creating an atmosphere of **faith** and keeping those who didn't believe outside the room.

One of the most miraculous accounts of resurrecting the dead is found in **Matthew 27:51-53**, where at the very death of Jesus, saints who were dead and buried in the grave came back to life. It says; *“Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”*

I've never seen this portrayed in any of the movies of Jesus! Not just one or two were raised from the dead...but many. This is a great demonstration of the power of Jesus raising the dead saints while he is raised from the dead. Can you imagine the conversation in the streets when not only Jesus is alive, but also many saints are walking the streets alive again after being in the grave for who knows how long? They didn't go back to the grave either. Who knows how long they continued alive. These saints were living proof of the resurrection power of Jesus.

In **Acts 9:36-43**, we read another story of Peter raising to life a sister in Christ who had died. It says; *“At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed.”*

Once again, we now see Peter putting out all those in the room including the disciples who brought him there, which clearly shows that they did not believe that they themselves could pray for Dorcas to be raised from the dead. Those fellow Christians could have been offended with Peter, but he knew they didn't believe or have faith to see Dorcas raised from the dead. Let me ask you this today; do you believe in the miraculous resurrection of the dead for today, or do you just believe that it ended with these biblical accounts?

**Verses 40 – 43** continues; *“And turning to the body he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.”*

Just to reiterate, this is what Jesus says in **Matthew 10:8**: *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”*

Another account of someone being raised from the dead is in **Acts 20:7-12** where it reads this; *“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.”*

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

Now this account is interesting because it almost looks like Paul was speaking life into the boy by faith, because it wasn't until the end of Paul's talking early in the morning, and even after he had departed, that they brought the young man in alive. It doesn't look like Paul brought the man back upstairs with him right away as he continued to preach. Just to put out a thought to you, it may have been that the young man laid on the ground whether dead or alive and just not moving until daybreak when he was raised up. There could have been many skeptics and naysayers trying to believe in what Paul had said as the hours went by and not seeing any movement by this young man. Two facts that are true; the young man fell and died and the young man was raised from the dead. Once again, we see faith in action by what comes out of Paul's mouth.

So, do you believe? Do you believe these stories that we've read? Do you believe that Jesus is going to raise you from the dead one day? Do you believe that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in your mortal body and will quicken it to life when you die, not just physically but eternally?

If you believe that, I'd like to close by reading the story of the talents. It's from **Matthew 25:14-30**; *“For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”*

The landowner in this parable is Jesus and the servants are Christians, for that's who we are, servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. The talents in this parable don't refer to physical money, but the gifts of the Holy Spirit that have been given freely by him as he wills.

At the day of judgement when we stand before Jesus, each Christian will have to given an account to him of how they used or didn't use the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This teaching is very deep with powerful truths in it.

The servant or Christian who buried their talent in the earth, sounds like a very religious person. They go to church, tithe, give money to the poor, open their homes to Christian fellowship, just doing their 'duty', they haven't been a drunkard or an adulterer; but yet have **buried** and **hid** the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Jesus didn't mince his stern reproach as he called those Christians wicked and lazy! Don't think for a moment that Jesus won't judge you for not using the gifts of the Holy Spirit and don't think that your salvation won't be affected as to how you stewarded the gifts. This wicked unprofitable Christian was thrown into outer darkness with

## HOLY SPIRIT POWER

weeping and gnashing of teeth – in other words, hell. I know you don't want to believe it, but that was Jesus himself says to those who reject his free gift of the Holy Spirit to all who call themselves Christians.

Fellow Christian, it's time to get off the pablum and digestive cookies and time to eat the meat of God's word.

It's time to stop being spiritually bulimic, that every time you hear the word of God that wants to bring correction, edification and building up of your spirit, you go home and vomit it out of your spirit and force yourself to reject it. Why would a Christian do that? Because it would ruin their worldly reputation and image, they wouldn't want to be seen as fundamental person or on fire for Jesus, it could even mean persecution. (To clarify, we're not talking about the physical sickness of bulimia.)

It's time to stop being spiritually anorexic with selective eating of God's word and in the end being spiritually sick because you're not eating the word of God. Jesus referred to himself as the bread of life ~ eat of him. (Again, we're not talking about the physical sickness of anorexia).

Likewise, how many Christians today don't want to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit or operate in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, but just want to go to church, be a good person and have a good reputation, not wanting the persecution that comes as a result of operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? But if God's word is true and what we just read is true about the talents, it should put the fear of God in Christians to repent, knowing that they'll be judged by what they did or didn't do with the Gifts the Holy Spirit has given to them – and believe me, he has given to everyone severally as he wills (I Corinthians 12:11). You have at least one gift. It's time to ask the Lord what it is if you don't know already and start using it to bring glory to the Father. Burying your gift in the ground will have eternal consequences. You are given gifts of the Spirit to serve the body of Christ, that's what it's all about. How are you serving the body of Christ, the church?

Jesus has so much to offer you, he knows the future for you, he knows the challenges you face, he sees and knows everything. Just as Jesus rose these people from the dead, and as Peter rose Dorcas from the dead and the other Apostles were operating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, you can operate in the gifts he's given to you.

If you'd like to read a more in-depth review of the parable of the talents, here is a Matthew Henry Commentary on it. <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/matthew-henry/Matt.25.14-Matt.25.30>

Please click on this link to read the script we read entitled, "[Lazarus](#)".