

50 POSITIONAL TRUTHS

#15: Resurrected with Christ

Not only has the believer been positionally joined with Christ in His death and in His burial, He has also been positionally joined with Him in His resurrection. The fact that this is positional should be apparent to any sane person. No one has *experientially* taken a trip to be with Christ in the third heaven the moment he believes in Him for salvation. No believer went through any *experience* by being physically beamed up to the throne of God where Christ is seated. No one *feels* raised with Christ. This positional truth is an identification God makes of the believer to be with His Lord. It is not a physical thing. Regardless of where believers are in their spiritual lives, Paul tells them all they have been positionally raised with Christ. It has nothing to do with experience. It is positional! And it is permanent!

Though this raising with Christ is identificational not experiential—since it did not literally or physically occur—it is nonetheless a truth that the believer is to recognize, or reckon, as truth for his spiritual life. The believer's acceptance by faith the reality [the 2nd act of the mind of accepting reality/existence]¹ that God has identified him with the resurrection and resurrected life of Jesus Christ is a source of incredible perspective and power for the supernatural Christian way of life:

¹The first act of the mind grasps the object. The second act of the mind grasps its existence. The third act of the mind makes inferences regarding that object. For example, in the first act of the mind your mind can grasp the concept of a \$500.00 bill in your pocket simply as a concept. However, there is all the difference in the world between the concept of a \$500.00 bill in your pocket and its actual existence in your pocket. It is the second act of the mind that *judges* if it actually exists (has esse) or not. It is through the second act of the mind (judgment) that we believe in the existence as such. Judgment is not simple apprehension (first act of the mind), but a complex one where the volition of faith is involved. It is one thing to grasp in the first act of the mind the concept of positional truth by abstracting or separating it from everything else. It is quite another to go to the second act of the mind and give it reality. One can passively apprehend (first act of the mind) the concept of being raised with Christ, but must actively judge (second act of the mind) whether this is true: has true existence. There is all the difference in the world between apprehending a concept and giving it reality. There is nothing more distinct in the world than whether something really exists or not: like the *reality* of whether there is a \$500.00 bill in your pocket right now. The deepest meaning for anything is to exist. Consider another illustration between the first and second acts of the mind: A phoenix may be conceptualized as a bird that burns itself to death every five hundred years or so, and rises rejuvenated from its own ashes. We can, by the first act of the mind (apprehension), intellectually grasp this concept. However, it is the 2nd act of the mind of judgment that determines if the phoenix has real existence. There is all the difference in the world between the concept of a phoenix and its existence. If I describe the phoenix to you, your mind in its first act is somewhat *passive* in apprehending what I am talking about. But if I were to tell you that this bird really exists, the second act of your mind (judgment) would become very active. The second act of the mind is never passive. This is where faith in God's Word comes in. There is all the difference in the world between passively apprehending the concept of being risen with Christ and making the faith judgment that it is actual reality.

Positional truth #15: Resurrected with Christ:

Ephesians 1:18 *I pray that* the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him.¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.¹¹ Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

In Christ

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