

LOVE REFINED

Love Overcomes

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!" (John 20:1-2)

For the world: love overcame sin, death and Satan – “But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy...so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” (Titus 3:4-5, 7)

- ***No fear of death (freedom)*** – “Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Heb. 2:14-15)
- ***New hope in life (transformation)*** – “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Peter 1:3)

That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Rom. 10:9)

For the Christian: love overcomes when I fail – “Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to Him: ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.’ And he went outside and wept bitterly.” (Luke 22:60b-62)

- ***Courage: though I fail, I’m still present*** – “So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.” (John 20:3-4)
- ***Grace: though I fail, God’s still present*** – “When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?’ ...Again Jesus said, ‘Simon son of John, do you truly love me?’ ...The third time He said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’” (John 21:15, 16, 17)
- ***Encouragement: though I fail, God still wants to use me*** – “Feed my lambs...Take care of my sheep...Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15, 16, 17)

For the record: the risen Jesus is praying for me right now...

Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Rom. 8:34)