



Weekly Devotion: The Joy of Easter Persists

April 16, 2020

The promise of Easter does not end on Resurrection Sunday.

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith--being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Reflection

Peter denied Jesus three times, cursing and swearing that he did not even know “the man,” refusing to even name the name of Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75). Even though he rebuked Jesus for predicting his denial, earlier saying “Even if I have to die with you I will not deny You!” (Matthew 26:35) And yet, Jesus still appeared to him personally following his resurrection, on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:34).

No matter our doubts or mistakes or lapses in judgement...Jesus still offers us relationship and salvation. Our faith is more precious than gold because, unlike gold, it cannot ever lose its true value. Do you ever doubt your worthiness to be forgiven or feel unlovable? Peter’s words remind us that our place beside Jesus and ability to be given new life is imperishable, enduring.

Easter is full of promise, hope and joy. Yet, we tend to lose that promise too quickly. Hold onto it, I pray. It can be so easy to let the joy of Sunday fade and allow our doubts to come back. This is not what Jesus intended.

There will be challenges to our joy. In our work, our partners or spouses, our children, our communities. News will not always be positive, answers will not always be known, uncertainty may continue. Still, we can choose to “*believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy*” because faith sustains. The promise of salvation, forgiveness, hope, love sustains us because Easter is always true.

How can you keep your Easter-faith strong every day?

Let us pray...

Lord Jesus Christ, in the week following Easter,
the light of your love shines on!
Your light has come into the world,
And neither darkness, nor evil, nor even death itself could overcome it.

And, like the women, like the disciples,
who have been there with you through Holy Week and Easter Morning,
have been made witnesses to the resurrection story:
wondering,
bewildered,
hoping,
rejoicing...
and sometimes doubting.

It is not always easy to believe with our minds
and trust with our hearts.

Loving Christ,
Open the eyes of our faith
that we may behold the work of your redemption.
Eternal Christ,
Open our minds and hearts to receive you,
your resurrection glory, your light everlasting.
May this time of worship, reflection and celebration
be a worthy response to your love and your sacrifice for us.

Help us to hold the joy of Easter in our spirits always.
Amen.