



## ***The Invitation Newsletter***

**April 2021**

To all who follow ***Jerry Liversage Ministries and Responding Recovery Ministries***-

We wanted to send you this newsletter as we enter April 2021. This is an exciting time in which we are living. As we continue to live in turbulent times, **we know** the same Jesus who made a triumphal entry over 2000 years ago to include His death, burial, and resurrection- **Lives Today!**

I trust your Easter resurrection celebration will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as you focus on our King Jesus who will be returning again soon. **We want to be ready, and we know you do too!**

**As you Know...** in a few days, we will once again celebrate Easter/Resurrection Sunday. You might also know this day is centered around a feast or festival of the Christian church that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is observed and celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or after March 21-or one week later if the full moon falls on Sunday. In other words, Easter falls between March 22 and April 25.

**But did you Know...** Easter was originally a pagan festival honoring Eostre, a Teutonic (Germanic) goddess of light and spring? At the time of the vernal equinox (the day in the spring when the sun crosses the equator and day and night are of equal length), sacrifices were offered in her honor. As early as the eighth century, the name was used to designate the annual **Christian** celebration of the **Resurrection of Jesus Christ**.

In our day, the world continues to highlight the “easter bunny” and “spring break” along with other so called “holiday celebrations.” But make no mistake, we serve a Risen Jesus who will return again! This is a 365 day a year **FACT**.

As we will soon be looking beyond the living fact of Easter and Jesus time of being back on earth in a resurrected body for 40 days, I am reminded of Luke's recording of another event in Acts 1:1-11, which says;

*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.*

*4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

*6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

*9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said; "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

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Though there is much we can glean from this wonderful truth; one thing we can surely highlight, which is promised.... *"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

As we move towards Pentecost and the remembrance of the promised Holy Spirit, which Jesus gave, this same promise was spoken of in the Old Testament by prophets of old such as Ezekiel who said in chapter 36:26-27...

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."*

What a great truth we can possess and also to know the author of the Bible who is living inside us and empowering us to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ. This truth enables us to live above sin, death, hell, and the grave.

By the Grace of God, may we continue to live in the expectation of His return, knowing His promises and telling the story of Jesus to anyone. We must prepare for His soon arrival. Jesus said in Rev 16:15 –

"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

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***Rev. Jerry Liversage***