

All Men Shall Rise Again

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Now our subject this morning: "All Men Shall Rise Again." "All Men Shall Rise Again."

The resurrection means rising again – renewal, restoration. Understand that aspect of resurrection – renewal, restoring – that's the thing. We're not getting something new. We're not resurrecting a new consciousness. We have had it. We have had it for ages. But we've lost it.

You take, in the criminal, in the murderer, in the person who is, has sunk into the depths of this worldly consciousness – still does he not change. Can he not change? Can he not become a real Son of God? Read about the saints – their lives were not the most to be desired, but look what they became. Look at St. Paul – a murderer – became the great St. Paul.

And so, understand that we are simply renewing something within us when we resurrect that Consciousness of which Jesus had – the Christ Consciousness which Jesus manifested. And so, we have simply lost contact with our Eternal Nature. We have had that. It is right within us. It is in, within every one. Why? Because our Soul has been, become attached to this body. That's all. Our Soul has been identified with something that is changeable, transient, and passes away. But still, within each and every one of us, is the Presence of God. That's what we have to renew. That's what we have to resurrect. Not something we have to make over, or find. It is there. Renew that Consciousness by right meditation, and contacting God, and feeling, surrendering, to God's Great Love.

And so realize, what is it that rises again? It is your Soul Consciousness. From the [Bhagavad] Gita¹ we have these following words: "It is Soul Consciousness," or unborn, "always was, eternal, does not perish, perpetual, undying, it perishes not in the perishable body." That's from the Bhagavad Gita, one of the greatest scriptures.

And our Master has this to say about the same Soul Consciousness, which we read in his Autobiography [of a Yogi] and his teachings: "The Soul, not the body, is made in the Image of God." Surely it is not this body; it passes away, gives us all sorts of trouble. That's not the Image of God. The Image of God is His Presence within us as Soul Consciousness.

And so, the Master goes on to say: “Nothing decays; it merely changes form. It is attached to the body, therefore, it is subject to its changes and its limitations.” Understand that. It is the Soul attached to this body. And as the body changes, and passes away at death, the Soul, identified with it, loses its continuity of consciousness and passes into unconsciousness. It is still there, but what good is it unless we know it, dynamically – unless we know the Presence of God in a dynamic way?

We have one reference here at this time – St. John, the 8th Chapter, 31st and 32nd Verses: “Then Jesus said [unto] to those [Jews] which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make ye free,” and death shall not touch you again.

And so realize it is, that, if we can remain unceasingly in the Christ Consciousness within, which Jesus manifested so completely, if we can, by meditation, and especially, by the Love of God, make that dynamic to our consciousness. Then we will never lose our oneness with God. The Presence of God will be a reality; you will have renewed, resurrected, restored, what you truly are – children of God – one with His Great Consciousness.

And so, understand that we had that. We had that Immortal Consciousness. We had it in a dynamic way. But, we lost it. We lost it. Why? Because we were taken up with iniquity, which simply means, attachment to this body and worldly conditions, that’s all. Sin is nothing but that. The minute, in meditation, you rise above this body consciousness, and feel the Love of God, there’s no sin. Sin cannot exist. Iniquity never was in His Presence. Iniquity is in this outward consciousness.

And so, in Ezekiel what do we read? Ezekiel, the 28th Chapter, just the gist of the 13th through 16th Verses to show that we have had that Consciousness. Otherwise, we could never restore it. Unless it was in us, we could never restore something that isn’t, has never been there. It is, it is there. Always has been. We’ve forgotten it. We’ve overlooked it.

And so, in Ezekiel, this is what we read: “Thou hast been in Eden, the garden of God...Thou wast upon the Holy Mountain of God.” “The Holy Mountain” is where God dwells - in the Supreme Center of the brain. Your inspiration doesn’t, your high inspiration, or Spiritual inspiration, doesn’t come from sensation. A meal is good; intellectual discourse is good; that won’t give you God. But where is your consciousness when you think of God, and you feel His Great Love? It’s in the upper part of your spine and brain. Especially, in the Thousand-rayed Lotus, and in the Heart Center – that’s what it means.

“Thou wast upon the Holy Mountain of God. Thou [hast] walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.” “The stones of fire” are the Spiritual Centers of the, of the cord, the spinal cord and the brain, which make man able to express Divinity. We’re different. We’re created in the Image of God, and thereby we can restore that Consciousness.

Then it says: “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” “Iniquity,” realize, is nothing but attachment, nothing but attachment to this worldly consciousness – and God isn’t in that – in a dynamic way. He’s in it, the flowers, He’s in the flowers. But His Love is in Spirit within. And so, we had that Consciousness until iniquity, or worldly consciousness, replaced that Divinity – that Consciousness of God within us. Now what do we have to do? Supersede it. Supersede worldly consciousness with the Presence of God.

And then, it finally says: “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned.” By over, and over, and over, and over, forgetting God, and being attached to this worldly consciousness, we have increased our troubles. We have increased our desires, until what happened? “Thou hast sinned and thou hast been, thou hast...I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God, from the midst of the stones of fire,” because we have been attached, we have forgotten God.

All He wants us to do is not to forget Him. Not to forget the Giver. We’ve forgotten Him. We’ve been attached to matter, and iniquity has come in upon us. What has happened? We have lost our birthright – the Christ Consciousness within – and we have been thrown as profane out of the Consciousness of the Thousand-rayed Lotus, and the Centers of the spine. That, in a nutshell, is what has happened.

What have we got to do now? Restore that which we have lost. How? By right meditation, and, especially, by full surrender to God, and being one with His Great Love. That’s the key. That’s the key to this morning’s service – full surrender to God. And when His Love comes in upon you, then you will feel His Oneness. Then you will feel, as Brother Lawrence felt, the Presence of God. Not until then. No half-way measures with God. He demands full surrender – full, loving of His Great Consciousness.

Now, the first two commandments, first and second commandment, are wonderful. First commandment is, as you know: “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength, thy heart, and

thy might. And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,” because God’s Love is in the heart of your neighbor. “Upon these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Understand that. All law depends upon that. And therefore, if we love God, in the manner as promulgated by these two great commandments – if we do that – we will know that part of ourselves which is eternal, and which does not pass away. We will renew it. We will resurrect it. We will once more be one with our Father. But remember, we have to carry out those two commandments. Doesn’t that mean self-surrender? Doesn’t that mean the fullest surrender to God? Certainly it does!

Just to deviate a minute, you all know about atomic energy, and atomic bombs, and the hydrogen bombs, and all those things. Now that great, those fast-moving particles from cosmic rays are so fast that they go right by the atom – until something happens. What happens? Those fast-moving particles are slowed down. And, by the Law of God, the Spiritual Law, then they go right straight to the heart of the atom. Then you get atomic fission, and the creation of tremendous amounts of energy.

Now, the Spiritual Law is the same. The Spiritual Law is the same. God’s fast-moving spiritual rays of Cosmic Energy are so speedy, they go right by us – the cosmic rays go right by us. And, as it says in St. John [1:33], “Upon whom [thou shalt] you see the spirit descending and remaining, [on him, the same is he which baptiseth with] it is they who baptize by the Holy Ghost.” These rays go right by us. Why? Why? Because we have to slow them down, just like in atomic fission. We have to slow those rays down. And then, we slow the rays down, they go right straight – through God’s Great Law – to the center of our heart. That’s what happens.

That’s what happens, if somehow, we can, instead of reflecting these Great Rays of God’s Spirit – instead of reflecting them – we can slow them down and receive them. Then we will be enlivened, and then we will be enriched. And then we will renew what we really are.

And what does that? What slows down God’s very fast-moving spiritual rays of Cosmic Energy? What is it? What does it? We know what slows the atomic energy, the neutrons, down. It is a like substance of the same nature as the fast-moving neutrons. And in us, it’s the like substance of the fast-moving Spiritual rays of God. And what is it – Love. Love is what slows down the Spiritual rays of God’s Cosmic Energy. Love is what slows them down. And then, when they’re slowed down, because in our heart is the same Love that’s in God’s Great Heart. Then when they’re slowed down, according to His Great Spiritual Law, they go directly, without any trouble, to the center of our being. The Center of the atom, of which we are in God’s Great Consciousness, and then tremendous energy is released. Spiritual

enes...energy is released. And then you can perceive, and understand, and know the Presence of God. It's a wonderful thing to remember. And what is that which slows down God's great Spiritual Force? Love; Love!

That's why we have the two commandments as being the greatest. Thou shalt love God with all your heart, Soul, and strength; and your neighbor as yourself. Understand that. It's so simple. But there are so many reservations in our love for God. "Sure, I'll love you God, if you'll give me this, and give me that." Or you get into trouble. Then we love God all of a sudden. No! He wants us, as it says in the Gita, "For love's sake." That's what He wants. And that's what we must do. And those who meditate regularly – and I meditate with many people – and I find that those who love God, it's so simple. Understand that. If you can realize that one lesson this morning, that that which will give you the Presence of God is God's Love; unadulterated, full surrender is necessary. And, if you do that, you will be scientifically meditating, and you will be scientifically contacting the Presence of God within.

And so, the key is this; that the rising again in us of the Immortal Consciousness of Christ, depends upon so loving God – this is very important – so loving God that we will not deviate from doing the Will of God, even in crucifixion. Now that's what is demanded. If you are to receive God's Love, it is to have the same fortitude that Jesus had. He had the power to overstep that crucifixion. But he didn't do that. Why? Because he loved God so much, he wouldn't bend his will. He wouldn't bend his will. He wouldn't allow his will to operate in place of God's Great Will. That's the fortitude Jesus had. That's the lesson. As he was able to stand crucifixion, so can we. But don't think he lost. He gained the greatest thing – the greatest Spiritual Treasure there is – Conscious Oneness with the Presence of God, eternally. That's what Jesus received.

And so, remembering Jesus' fortitude should encourage us to bear whatever tests God sends us, realizing that no matter how hard the tests are – and sometimes they're terrific – sometimes it seems, they seem unbearable. But never forget that what you will receive – what you will receive – the Joy, the Eternal Joy that for you, you will receive in place of those little tests, are worth everything that you can stand.

That's why Master said, he said, emphasizing how wonderful God's Great Love is, he said: "God loves us so wonderfully and silently, more than you can imagine." Then he says: "But don't be discouraged when His tests come." Don't, don't complain when God tests you. What you will receive cannot be said with words. The Great Joys of Spirit – the Eternal Joys, the Celestial Visions, and the Celestial Presence of God – will replace those little tests to such an extent, you will never remember they existed. Such is the Power of God's Love.

And so, we should realize that the tests that the example this morning is, the... God's Love should be so great within us – the surrender to Him should be so complete – that we do not mind, or no negative state or spirit of revenge, can ever exist. And His Love should so come in, in our Souls that no matter what people do to us – no matter what people do to us – we can forgive them, just as Jesus did, and give them Love, and wish them Joy. Can you do that? You can if you feel God's Love enough.

That's the lesson this morning, is in forgiveness. Forgiveness, even if people persecute you – forgive them. You won't lose by forgiving them. They'll get all that they deserve. God's Law is just. He will take care of what they're doing. But you be careful of your actions. And, if you can forgive them, if the Love of God is so great within you that you can forgive them, then you will feel, you will feel His Love to such an extent that words cannot express it. That's why Jesus said, "Eye hath not seen; ear hath not said [heard] the things which God hath prepared for those who love Him." "Peace that passeth all understanding" – that comes only when God's Love is Supreme within you.

And so forgiveness – forgiveness is the great thing. Forgiveness is so wonderful. That's why Jesus emphasized it. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And in the Autobiography² we read these words from the Mahabharata, the Indian epic about forgiveness. I cannot help but give them to you this morning, when it says: "One should forgive under any injury." Someone does something real mean to you, it's hard, isn't it. You must forgive. You won't lose. "One must forgive under any injury," [says the Mahabharata]. It hath been said that the continuation of the species is due to mans being forgiven. Forgiveness is holiness. By forgiving, by forgiveness the universe is held together. Forgiveness is the might of the mighty. Forgiveness is sacrifice. Forgiveness is the quiet of the mind." Unless you can forgive your enemies you will not have even peace of mind. You will not have Cosmic Peace. Forgiveness is very important. And then it says: "Forgiveness and gentleness are the qualities of the self-possessed. They represent eternal virtue."

And so, forgiveness must come. But, if you can forgive them, and give them love, you are recompensed a million times, for God's Love flows easily. It is that lack of forgiveness that prevents the slowing down of His Great Spiritual Rays. Your heart cannot respond, cannot hold His Love, until all the dross is removed. And some of the dross is lack of forgiveness to others.

"The heart," Master used to say, "must be pure gold; then God's Great Love will come." And so when Jesus died on the cross, he was not...the man of sorrows is not the lesson. That's the negative aspect. But he was such a deadfas...he was such a steadfast devotee. The Peace of God and His Love was so much with him, that he could stand crucifixion. That's the positive lesson of the cross. Is that Jesus was

not the man of sorrows, but he was such a steadfast devotee in God that he could even stand crucifixion; he loved God so much, he wanted to do God's Will so much. Let's you and I have that same consciousness. Jesus said we could do it. Jesus said, "The things I do, ye shall do, and greater things." Why did he say that? Because each one of us is made in the Image of God; each one of us has the Christ Consciousness within us; God's Presence within us. We simply have to renew it, and resurrect it. Reestablish that which is our birthright.

And so in closing, one thing that comes to my mind, I want to say before I close is this: that, as Jesus had his disciples, that Great Love of God, the Great Cosmic Energy, God's Consciousness plus its Power. Jesus gave that to his disciples. That's why they were able to perceive and understand. That's why they could give to others the Great Love of God. When Jesus was with them, he did that. But you will remember he said, "When I am gone I will send you the Comforter." And so, understand God's Great Love is in the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost, which is the Comforter. And the meditations of Self-Realization Fellowship will give you contact with the Holy Ghost, wherein you can receive the same Love which a saint can give to his disciples while he is with them.

We have a parallel in the Master. When he was with us he said, "I have lived the lives of all of you." He gave us that Great Love. It was he who turned the Great Consciousness and Cosmic Energy of God into Love, and gave it to us. That's what changed us, those who are trying to carry on his work. The Master did that. And to prove to you that Love is the primary matter in attaining, in resurrection your consciousness, Master said, "When I am gone," what will take my place? "Love alone." So realize, Love, Love is the key to the perceiving of the Presence of God within. Love will slow down His Great Spiritual Vibrations so that instead of reflecting it, you can receive it. Love; Love alone.

And so, in closing, how to rise again; the Great Buddha found out that asceticism, suffering asceticism, was not enough; he had to meditate, and attain the Presence of God. He had to feel full surrender to God. He practiced many austerities. That wouldn't do it. But when he fully surrendered to God in meditation, and he had such love for God, he says, "I sit here until the flesh falls off from the bones, unless I find Thee I stay here and die." That's the surrender we have to have. That's the love we have to have. When St. Paul said, "I protest by the rejoicing I have in Christ, I die daily." He died to outward consciousness. He renewed and resurrected the Great Presence of Christ within him. "I protest by the rejoicing I have in Christ, I die daily" to outward consciousness. Isn't that renewing and resurrecting the consciousness within you? That's what we have to do.

And so, the key is, if we daily mix, if we daily mix with the Presence of God within us, as saintly Brother Lawrence did. If we daily do that, fully surrender to God, then we cannot help – due to the laws of association – if you mix with worldly people, you become like them. If you mix with people who are Godly you become like them. If you mix with God, you become God Himself, because there's only one

thing in the Universe – that’s Consciousness. And that Consciousness is God’s Consciousness. When we are able to retain the continuity of that Consciousness in our every act, in our every moment of existence, then we are one with God. There’s no difference.

And so, let us daily, daily, renew our Consciousness. How? By being in the Presence of God, fully surrendered, surrendering ourselves to God; and God’s Love will overcome all barriers. And God’s Love will, especially, baptize us, daily, in the Presence of those Great Spiritual Rays of God’s Presence, and we will renew, restore, and resurrect, what is rightly ours – the Christ Consciousness within.

1 Chapter 2, Verse 20

2 Chapter 44, Page 448 (1951 Revision)