

For in the ascension we see the exaltation of Jesus, instead of the man of sorrows, acquainted with grief or sickness. We see the living, triumphant, exultant Son of God ascending to the throne of God, receiving from God the Father, what Jesus and the Father considered worthy of the suffering, and death and sacrifice and redemption of Jesus Christ. A reward so great that Jesus Himself considered it worth all His sufferings, all His buffetings, His Earth career, His humiliation, His sacrifice and death. All to obtain it, the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:16-18).

On this side of the cross we see the distributing of His new life. Not the life that was on the other side, but the life that IS on this side—the life of triumph, the life of victory, the life of praise, the life of power, the life of glory, exultant, triumphant.

The other night as I lay in bed I was thinking and praying over some of the things that were passing through my mind concerning Jesus. The scripture of Revelation 1:18 came with new force to me, where Jesus, not as a humiliated Savior, but as a Kingly Conqueror, stands forth with the marvelous declaration that *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

It seems to me that in all the Word of God there is no such shout of triumph as that. Why, it seems to me as if the very heaven and the earth and all that is in them rings with that exultant shout of a real Victor, *“I have the keys of hell and of death.”* The enemies of man, taken captive by the Son of God, subject to His dictate. That is the Christ that speaks to my soul. That is the Christ on this side of Calvary. That is the Christ my soul worships.

I am going to tell you a strange thing. I am not much interested in the Christ on the other side of Calvary. Not half so much as I am in the Christ this side of Calvary. Bless God, I love the Redeemer, but I GLORY in His REDEMPTION.

The marvel of Christianity and the wonder of this scripture that I called your attention to is that it does not say that “as He WAS” back there, so are we to be in this world. Don’t you see, that is where the world fell down, where the Christian life became submerged in a vale of tears and shadows and darkness and poverty and humiliation and suffering. All of which Christian mankind accepted joyfully, because they believed they were exemplifying Jesus Christ, and thinking they were glorifying Him. They still visioned NOT the Christ that IS, but the Christ that WAS. The Christ Who bore and endured and suffered