

“MOMENTS WITH MARY”

“LET FAITH ARISE!”

1 Peter 1:3 NASB “Blessed be the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

Philippians 3:12-14 CEV “I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. My friends, I don’t feel that I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. I run toward the goal, so that I can win the prize of being called to heaven.”

Let faith arise! We need to keep that hope alive in our hearts so we can live in the resurrection power of Christ! The LORD’S desire for us is that we understand that faith and hope in our hearts gives us the strength we need to go onward toward the goal of heaven before us!

While we have already been raised to new Spiritual life, there is still a completion in the future for His Children! We are by no means perfect or finished yet while we are still in our earthly bodies but we do press on to victory. During the Easter Season, many thoughts turn toward the price paid for our salvation. Does the fact of Christ’s Resurrection and the hope of ours in the future influence the way we live today?

Let your faith arise! The Enemy of our soul comes against us to try to destroy our faith or discourage us greatly! When we have afflictions in our minds or bodies, Satan comes with seducing suggestions that our pain is God’s displeasure and punishment. He will try to convince us that our prayers “bounce off the ceiling”, that we’ve somehow lost the power of prayer and even others cannot prevail in prayer in your behalf! Sometimes our emotions seem to overwhelm us and try to keep us focusing on the *feeling of* faith and hope! Faith and hope are facts, gifts from God to enable us to walk with Him, regardless of our feelings!

Let faith arise! That same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead lives in us!

Romans 8:11 NASB “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.”

Many times our faith is being tested when we suffer in some way. God always has a reason for any test we go through. Sometimes we find that our endurance or

strength has increased as we reflect on how faithful the LORD has been to us in the past. At times we do not have even a hint as to why we suffer! A parent will require an action from his child that involves some discomfort, but will encourage the child to finish whatever is needful. The wise parent will only explain as much as the child can comprehend, for lengthy details can confuse him!

Many times we have to really put up a good fight to hold fast to our faith! Remembering He will never lead us into a place where He will not be, can provide great comfort for you! Have you ever instructed a child to work in the yard and kept an eye on him from behind the curtain? You were there, but the child did not see or feel your presence! When we trust Him in the difficult places of life that is assurance that the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead also lives in you!

Every Easter we encourage ourselves to arise in our spirit and faith! We think of a cold dark grave where Jesus was laid, and of the doubts His followers had until they witnessed the Risen Christ! In Nature, we see the promise of new life each Spring when we see little blades of green rise up that will present a blaze of beauty as the flowers unfold! Often the ground is hard and cold and even icy, yet that new life pushes through it!

How often my own heart has felt as cold and hard as that frozen ground and I wondered if I would ever sense the warmth of God's love again! But in His mercy and grace, He shines His love and light upon my heart, melting away the icy places of my heart! How I appreciate His Presence as I sense that glow lifting my faith once again! We all go through various "seasons" of life when all seems so "dead" and we wonder if we will be "resurrected" again to feel new life! But that power resides within us, and in our "due season" we will arise with a new and stronger faith!

Remembering that we are on a journey through this life and we are not yet perfect will help us to hold fast to our LORD! Sometimes we require more from ourselves and others, than God requires! Keep your hope alive! Rejoice in our Risen Savior!

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the LORD, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the LORD."

In His Service, Mary Mayko