

## How to Acquire the Glory of Resurrection?

The glory of the resurrection is not just for display or to take pride in proclaiming “Christ is risen”, it is neither to be merely watched from a distance nor to be seen closely. But in fact, the glory of the resurrection is given to us, the believers to acquire and to retain so that it becomes ours to own, and we become glorified through it. It means that if there is a great glory in the resurrection and the victory over death, then this glory is within our reach, we can obtain it and be glorified with it, that is to say, this glory shines in our lives. How does this happen?

Our teacher Saint Paul the Apostle says in his second epistle to the Thessalonians: *“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* We are invited to have to ourselves and to acquire the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is an amazing thing; that we, the humans made of dust, the earthly, are able to have to ourselves the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. How do we obtain this glory, the glory of the resurrection? How can we acquire the glory of the new life that cannot be overcome by death?

There are seven key points to acquire this great glory, the glory of the resurrection.

1. **Faith:** this is the main key point as the Lord emphasizes to us: *“Believe in the Light that you may become sons of Light...I am the Light of the world, whomever believes in Me should not abide in darkness.”* (John 12: 36, 46) It means that, it is required of us to believe in this light and in this great glory, in the sense that we ought to have a strong conviction that the glory and the light of Christ are more important, more substantial, and far greater than the luster and the glory of the world. Therefore, we seek this glory and hold on to it with all our hearts.

2. **Keeping the commandments:** As the Lord Jesus reveals to us: *“if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”* (John 8:51) and He speaks about the Father saying: *“I know that His commandment is everlasting life”* (John 12:50) because the glory of Christ...the glory of the resurrection, is hidden in the commandment. If we covet it, if we love it, if we keep it, if we live by it, and if we walk in its light, we will acquire the glory of the resurrection. It means that the commandment should be more important to us than any other worldly thoughts. It should be always present in our minds and to walk in its light in every step of the way. The everlasting life is to be found in within commandment. So, whoever keeps the commandment will have the life which can never be defeated by death.

3. **Rejecting the glories of the world and particularly the glory and the praise from people...** Accepting glory and dignity from people is a major obstacle that prevents us from acquiring the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. In St. John's Gospel, there is a reference to some people who hid their faith and did not proclaim it because *“They loved the praise of men more than the glory of God.”* (John 12:43) The Lord Jesus says about that in the Gospel of Matthew: *“whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”* (Matt. 10:32-33) He also gives us Himself as an example in rejecting the glory of men when he says: *“I do not receive honor from men.”* (John 5:41) and He stresses that the acceptance of glory of the people destroys the faith as He tells the Pharisees: *“How can you believe and you receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?”* (John 5:44) Therefore, it is clear to us that rejecting the glory of men is a fundamental condition to acquire the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. **Being diligent in partaking of the Holy Communion:** As the Lord Jesus emphasizes: *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you... As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven...He who eats this bread will live forever.”* (John 6:53-58) One of the most important means to acquire the glory of the resurrection is to be diligent in partaking of the bread of life, the body and the blood of Christ. Therefore the psalm would be fulfilled in us: *“That glory may dwell in our land”* (Psalm 85:9), meaning that the divine glory may dwell in our lives.

5. **Conducting our lives in love and to uphold love.** Love is the essence of the commandment and whoever drifts away from love, drifts away from God...And as a result, he becomes far removed from acquiring the Lord's Glory. Therefore, the bible always commands us to: *“Love one another”* (1John 4:7) so God may abide in us and our hearts become filled with His love and glory.

6. **Enduring tribulations.** The path to glory has many tribulations and hardships that the devil provokes against God's children, because he hates them and he envies them. And he wants to prevent them from finishing the path of the eternal glory. But the children of God understand that: *“We must, through many tribulations, enter the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:22) In fact the praise of people to us does not last, but sometimes turns quickly to enmity, evil and persecution (Acts 14:11-19). But because the children of God do not care about praise from people in the first place, and rather they reject it, they continuously move on to fulfill their cause, provide love, and carry out their good deeds to the end, no matter how much tribulations and hardships they may face.

7. **Patience:** We are in so much need for this virtue, and it is necessary that we continuously ask for it from God so we can endure tribulations. In doing so, we take an example of the Lord Jesus Himself who patiently endured all the pain so it became the way to resurrection and glory.

The Lord Jesus, who invited us to acquire the glory of His resurrection, is capable of guiding our hearts to the love of God and patience of Christ (2Thess 3:5). And to support us in our struggle by his grace, so that through these seven key points we acquire the glory and the light of eternal life and that glory may

Dwell in our land forever.

*Fr. Yohanna Naseef*

[fryohanna@hotmail.com](mailto:fryohanna@hotmail.com)

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL



<http://www.stmarychicago.com>