

“Believing in the Resurrection”

(T-11.VII)

1. We have crucified ourselves.

“You have nailed yourself to a cross and placed a crown of thorns upon your own head” (9:1).

2. We have done so because we are devotees of the god of the crucifixion.

“The god of the crucifixion demands that he crucify, and his worshippers obey. In his name they crucify *themselves*, believing that the power of the Son of God is born out of sacrifice and pain” (6:1-2).

3. We cannot actually crucify ourselves.

“Yet you cannot crucify God’s Son, for the will of God cannot die. His Son has been redeemed from his own crucifixion, and you cannot assign to death whom God has given eternal life” (9:2-3).

4. The God of the resurrection wants only for us to claim our resurrection.

“The God of the resurrection demands nothing, for He does not will to take away. He does not require obedience, for obedience implies submission. He would only have you learn your *own* will and follow it, not in the spirit of sacrifice and submission, but in the gladness of freedom” (6:3).

5. To do this, we must believe in the resurrection as a general reality.

“Believe in the resurrection because it has been accomplished, and it has been accomplished in *you*. This is as true now as it will ever be, for the resurrection is the will of God, which knows no time and no exceptions” (4:6-7).

6. And we must actively facilitate our brothers’ resurrection.

“Guard them in their resurrection, for otherwise you will not awake in God, safely surrounded by what is yours forever.

“You will not find peace until you have removed the nails from the hands of God’s Son and taken the last thorn from his forehead” (7:7-8:1).

7. As the exemplar of resurrection, Jesus plays a key role in all this.

We should see him, by virtue of his resurrection, as a living presence in us who is working through us to raise others to new life, so that his resurrection is both alive *in* us and continuing *through* us.

I am *your* resurrection and *your* life. (4:1)

Teach not that I died in vain. Teach rather that I did not die by demonstrating that I live in you. (8:3-4)

Exercise

See your current condition pictured as a state of crucifixion.

Then hear Jesus say to you, "I am *your* resurrection and *your* life."

Hear him say, "Teach not that I died in vain. Teach rather that I did not die by demonstrating that I live in you."

But realize that to truly claim your resurrection, you must facilitate the resurrection of your brothers.

So think of a brother that you have tried to crucify.

Picture him up on the cross.

Realize that you had a hand in putting him there.

Say to him,

I will not find peace until you have removed the nails from the hands of God's Son and taken the last thorn from his forehead.

Picture yourself doing that, taking him down from the cross.

Finally, say,

I will guard you in your resurrection, for that it is how we will both awake in God.