

A True Spiritual Resurrection

Ah, how many are there, who have risen, with the help of God from a career of sin, and who at this moment feel within them the lusty life of grace, but who will again, through human frailty, through neglect of prayer, through the strength of their own sinful passions and bad habits; above all, through their imprudently thrusting themselves into the occasion of sin, fall again into a state of spiritual death never again, perhaps, to be awakened to a life of grace by the quickening voice of God; but to be abandoned to eternal reprobation. These are the abortions of the Church's spiritual life and the victims of their own insane folly.

But, give me a spiritual uprisal, modeled truly on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Give me a spiritual life analogous to His during the Easter days. Give me a resurrection, I say, modeled on that of Jesus Christ, and an after-life like to His, of whom the Gospel tells us that to show that He was truly risen from the dead He performed the functions of a living man by daily conversing with the Disciples, by eating with them, and by the performance of other vital actions. So you, I say, show forth to the world that your resurrection to the spiritual life is one effected by the help of grace and destined to be perpetual, by speaking, aye, thundering in the ears of God the voice of prayer and of contrition for your past sins; by eating, yes, sharing in the ineffable banquet of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ by frequent Communion, and by doing the works of Christ; that is by the practice of Christian virtues. Give me such a resurrection and such a subsequent life. Of such a one it can be said what was said of Jesus Christ — that being risen from the dead "He dieth no more: death hath no longer dominion over Him;" but the supernatural life begun here by grace is destined to be perfected hereafter in glory.

