



# NEW LIFE

## CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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### MY LORD AND MY GOD

By Vince Dorazio

After Jesus was crucified, He was taken down from the cross and was laid in a nearby tomb. Because it was at the beginning of the Sabbath, Jesus' body was not prepared for burial or anointed with oils. As was the Jewish custom, the Sabbath was a "day of rest and prayer" and all types of work ceased during that period of time. The literal translation for Sabbath would be "ceasing". Thus, the *Sabbath* is a day of ceasing from all work; while resting. Consequently, the burial preparation was considered work and was forbidden on the Sabbath. The Sabbath began at sundown on Friday and continued to sundown the following day (when the stars appeared in the evening sky).

The morning after the Sabbath had ended; Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early in the morning to anoint Jesus' body. But when she arrived, she found the stone to the tomb was rolled away, and she found the tomb empty. Seeing a man walking close by, who she thought was a gardener, she asked where he had taken Jesus. At first she did not recognize that it was Jesus that she was talking to. But when Jesus spoke to her, she immediately recognized that it was Jesus. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see and recognize the risen body of Jesus! Jesus told Mary, **"go to my brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God."** (John 1:17)

Can you imagine the thoughts that the Apostles had when they heard this story from Mary? Not only that the tomb was empty, but that she actually saw and talked with the risen Jesus. I'm sure that they must have thought that who Mary saw was someone who resembled Jesus, and that she was too

distraught and troubled about the whole crucifixion.



But that evening, Jesus came and stood before the Apostles saying, **"Peace be to you."** Immediately the Apostles recognized Jesus and now knew for sure that what Mary had told them was true. For now they saw for themselves that Jesus had risen, and they became believers! Their faith that was almost gone was now rekindled with the sight of Jesus standing there before them. **WOW!** Talk about 'seeing is believing'.

When Jesus came to the Apostles after His resurrection, Thomas was not there with them. So when the others told him that they had seen and talked with Jesus, Thomas doubted their story and said, **"I will never believe it without probing the nail prints in His hands, and my hand into His side."** Thomas reacts the same as the other Apostles did when they heard Mary's story of seeing Jesus. But, Thomas goes a step further. Not only does he have to see and talk to Jesus, he wants to touch Him also. From that moment, he became saddled with the nickname of

"*Doubting Thomas*", and it stuck with him. That phrase is still used today by many people whenever someone says they don't believe. But, on the other hand, Thomas was also credited with one of the most well known phrases in the Bible. When he was with the Apostles eight days later, Jesus again came before the Apostles, a second time, even though the door was locked. Jesus said to Thomas, **"Take your finger and examine my hands and put your hand into my side. Do not persist in your unbelief, but believe."** At this moment Thomas, seeing and touching Jesus, says, **"MY LORD AND MY GOD!"** Jesus then said to him, **"You became a believer because you saw me. Blest are they who have not seen and have believed."** (John 20:24-29) The statement that Jesus makes here, I believe is meant for all of us today.

Saint Thomas was a fisherman from Galilee and one of the original twelve Apostles who was hand picked by Jesus. He is well known as the one Apostle who doubted the resurrection of Jesus, even though Jesus was seen by his fellow Apostles. It's possible that the wounds of the crucifixion were imprinted vividly on his mind, and he would not credit the report that Christ had indeed risen. Thomas was so troubled that his faith was shattered when Jesus was crucified. So it was hard for him to hear and believe that Jesus had risen. In his doubting state of mind, his reaction is the same as some of us might say today, *"I won't believe unless I can see for myself, after all, 'seeing is believing'"*. It can be said that St. Thomas became the first Christian to publicly acknowledge Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior! Thomas' faith was rekindled and born again. He was on fire with the Holy Spirit! Saint Thomas would become one of Christianity's greatest evangelists telling of his doubts and *'born-again'* experiences.

### **THE MASS**

Before the Second Vatican, the Roman Catholic Mass was said in Latin. The congregation would follow along in English with their Sunday Missal. At the Consecration, which is the principal part of the Mass, the words of Jesus Himself are spoken over the bread and wine; the same words He used when He instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

***"Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you. Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."***

The priest would elevate the Holy Eucharist and Chalice so that the whole congregation would be able to see and adore the Host. *The Elevation commemorates the lifting up of Jesus on the cross.* At this moment, the people in the pews would look at the Eucharist adoringly and repeat that well known quote that St Thomas uttered 2,000 years ago, saying, **"My Lord and My God"**.

The Consecration of the Mass itself has not changed since Vatican II. The priest says the same words that Jesus spoke at the Last Supper. Everything is the same except for the fact that the people do not say what St. Thomas said. That part has been eliminated and is not encouraged. I suggest that those of you who are reading this article begin the practice of saying this phrase whenever you attend Mass. Even if you don't voice it verbally, then at least begin saying it silently. Let us become like St. Thomas and proclaim to the glory of God that Jesus Christ is Lord by repeating what Thomas said . . . . .

## **MY LORD AND MY GOD**



## **PRAYER MEETINGS**

The first prayer meeting was held that first night, after Jesus' resurrection. The Apostles were gathered together in an upper room praying and looking for direction as to what they were to do. In the midst of their discussions and prayer, Jesus came to them, and they rejoice in praise and worship in His presence. That first day of the week is the day that we refer to as Easter Sunday. Fifty days later this group's prayer meeting receives the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Apostles hold their first Charismatic Prayer Meeting!

The weekly prayer meetings are a place where all who believe in the resurrection of Jesus come to praise and worship Him as **Lord and Savior**. It is also a time when we can reach out to other people to come and renew their lives and their Christianity. Whether the people gather together in homes, church social halls, a classroom, or in an upper room, the presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit is at the center of the meeting. Here we are of one body and one mind to verbally profess our faith, as we are encouraged by our brothers and sisters, and where we can also encourage those around us to do the same. Saint Paul writes in his Epistle to the Romans, **"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart. For if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** (Romans 10:8-9)

I urge you to commit yourselves to coming together just as the Apostles did those first days after Jesus' resurrection. They joined together in prayer and waited for the promises of Jesus that God would send them the gift of His Holy Spirit. (See Acts 1:4-8) When that day came, they went boldly in the world to announce that Jesus is the Messiah, and that He had risen. We receive that same holy boldness whenever we gather together in our weekly prayer meetings.



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you are in need of prayer support, we would like to include you in our daily prayers. Mail in your prayer request and we will add your request to our prayer list. **Please prayer for all those in need of your prayers.**

## **DONATIONS**

New Life Renewal is a non-profit 501(c)(3) **Tax-Deductible Christian Ministry** and is supported by your Free-Will donations. Please use the form below when sending in your donations. Thank you. May our God continue to bless you abundantly with His New Life!

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**WEEKLY PRAYER MEETINGS  
THURSDAYS 7:30 PM**

**St. Albert's Catholic Church  
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