

“And when he thus had spoken, [Jesus] cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth.’ And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, ‘Loose Him, And Let Him Go.’” John 11:43-44 KJV



A gift must be unwrapped for its benefits to be fully realized. The gift of Life was given by the Command of the Saviour’s Word, but the recipient was still encumbered by the grave clothes. This is an actual event recorded in God’s Word and because it is, it holds Truth which we must study and learn. We see here the Spoken Word resurrecting the dead. In Martha’s words, “*dead four days and stinketh.*” Next we see the evidence of the new life. The “*dead came forth.*” The Power of Resurrection is only available through God’s Word which will be evidenced by obedience to the Word. Then we have the Command to the living, “*Loose him.*” This is the blueprint for new believers. For the dead to live again Christ, the Word must be brought them. “*Preach the Gospel to every creature.*” We know the dead in sins are alive by their coming forth out of the grave. There is evidence of life. For the new believer as with a newborn, there is the hunger for God’s Word. The evidence of Life is evidenced by a desire to obey God’s Word. Obedience is the evidence of repentance. The loosing of the new believer comes in the form of discipleship. That is; “*teaching them to observe all things whatsoever [Christ] has Commanded [us].*” Notice the two parts of the Command; loose and let. Discipleship is not MAKING some one obey Gods Word, but presenting Truth in such a way that liberates from the bondage of sin and death. If bound, once loosed, the instinct is to move. It is the responsibility of believers, the living, to unencumber the newly resurrected, by teaching them of their new Liberty in Christ. The greatest Liberty we have as believers is unencumbered access to the Living God! Once God is known and His Word heard by the dead, they will come forth to follow Him. Babies do not immediately function on their own, but require diligent care. The only defense mechanism they have is their cry for help. They may not even know themselves why they cry and the caregiver must seek for the cause. Experienced caregivers will know why, but in the event it is unknown they must seek wisdom from a wiser person. “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*” Like new parents, we must often seek Wisdom from God’s Word to help other believers grow in Grace through Faith. The dead do not exhibit hunger; only the living. Unbelievers will not hunger for Truth, but remember; even though hungry, babies will spit out the green beans.

To free the captive from their chains,
And heal the infirm of their pains,
To them we must the Gospel bring,
So they might hear its Freedom ring! –CGP

What living person could endure the restrictions of a tomb for very long? We must “*loose them and let them go.*” We can only enable the newly Resurrected by removing the graveclothes that bind them, so they and we may follow after Christ.

“Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious Liberty of the Children of God. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all Truth. Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty.” Romans 8:21 2; John 16:13a; Corinthians 3:17 KJV