

# **NEW LIFE !**

**(A Letter of Love to the Body)**

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When He comes will we be found  
awaiting His holy presence?  
When He returns will our eyes be up  
and fixed upon the only Son?

When the Lord of our lives  
comes again to our earth  
to reclaim our souls  
and bring us to His holy kingdom...

Will our eyes behold His glory?  
Will we be ready?  
Will no sin stand in our path to Him?

In that moment, at that time –  
that time which is always coming...  
Will our hearts be turned to His holy call?  
Will our lives be formed  
according to His will?  
Will our minds shine with His holy Light –  
or will we be forsaken?

I pray the Lord's Light shine upon us;  
I pray the New Life will be with us.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I long to communicate with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, you who await new life – I long to speak with you of the coming of our Lord; moreover, I long to be with you in His holy presence.

I feel rather like St. Paul as I begin this letter, though it is more my purpose to share than to instruct; for I long, as I say, to communicate with the Body – to breathe truth in the presence of His sons.

I hope to state in words to those familiar with the language what it is in common we share – our hopes and our longings, our thoughts and our blessings... our expectation of the kingdom to come. It is this kingdom I would discuss with you; it is its Light I hope to touch.

My dear brothers and sisters, I speak to no one in particular, but rather to the body as a whole – I speak to that of which we all share; namely, the flesh of our God. I pray that the words I have to say will be spoken through the Spirit above. I pray that they will always ring true, and that they will bring you solace and love.

My brothers and sisters who await the new life, what is there that can compare with our hope in Christ? What is there that can match the promised glory of the kingdom for those who endure to the end? There can be nothing of so great a value as this. There simply is nothing that can even begin to cast a shadow upon the eternal kingdom of God. His Light, His Truth, the wholeness this new life brings to we who are so injured and weak, is grace beyond the measure of mortal men.

What joy this hope brings to our hearts! And though we are unable to fathom the depth and the breadth of such a call, the incomprehensible nature of its glory brings holy light to our soiled minds. For when our wills followed the pursuits they deemed beneficial and desirous, how lost were we. When our lives were formed by our own human hands, how flawed were we. But now that we yield to the Spirit of God and allow Him to work in the depths of our hearts – how blessed we are by this new life. Even as we stand upon this earthly plane, we sense the presence of heaven.

So, to what end will we not go to discover this kingdom? What entreaty will we not heed in order to follow our Brother? What earthly pleasure will we not forego to find the treasure that lasts forever? Indeed, nothing there is that we will not do. Nothing can confront us that we will not face. Nothing can dissuade us from staying the path that leads to the life everlasting. As those who went before us suffered sickness and death, as our own Lord laid down His life on the cross – so we are ready to give all our selves, to further the movement toward heaven. For we know indeed this life is but a trifle, when compared with the glory of God.

So, let us place our shoulders to the wheel. Let us align our hearts with the coming kingdom. Let us prepare our lives in such a way that when He comes, He shall not find us wanting. For certainly we long to hear his words to us: "Enter my Father's house." Certainly we long to be deemed His good and faithful servants. Certainly we would see our talents multiplied and added to His treasure. Certainly we long to be like Him who is our heart's desire. For it is with Him we aspire to be. To know of His presence, to dwell in His eternal kingdom, is the inexpressable joy which we seek. So, let us not hesitate to conform ourselves to His holy will.

When the Light comes down, when the Lord returns to us, when nevermore we shall sin or find darkness in our midst... When the vision of John shall become real and all bows down to the LORD - I hope to see you, my brother in Christ, awake and in the presence of God.

## 2

What happiness shall fill our souls on that day! I can hardly believe it is but a breath away. Tears fill my eyes when I think that Christ shall soon stand before us all, that His true and absolute presence shall soon be known – that even now those who have gone before us are celebrating in the house of the Lord. I am overwhelmed to think it so. And to think that you, my brother, and you, my sister, shall soon share that joy with me... O, how shall we bear it!

Praise God! Praise God, indeed! For our praise is a holy offering that joins us to His angels and saints and brings us before His throne. This fragrant sacrifice of joy so pure grants us a keen foretaste of His kingdom to

come; it makes us sharers in the new life even as we are confined to the old. So, praise Him with all your heart, and ye shall know His blessing. You shall stand in the presence of the Lord.

Let us join together in prayer, for we know where two or three are gathered in His name, there He is in our midst. Let us call upon the name of God as one. Let us set our hearts strongly upon His will, that it may be done. Let there be nothing to stand in our way of discovering Him. For there is great power in our prayer together. The Lord is with those who call upon His name. Let us call upon His name in truth, and for us anything will be done.

Is it not our desire in Christ to hasten His kingdom which comes? Do we not wish to dwell with Him even before this day is done? So, with our prayers let us make ready. With all our hearts let us call upon the Father to send again His only Son. And the Spirit of God will be with us. And the new life He brings will be revealed to us... And so we will grow closer to our LORD; so we will step closer to the heavenly gates today.

### 3

The vision of Light which awaits us, the Light which shines so brightly in the heavenly sphere and is approaching us here in this place – the vision of the Lord which we sometimes sense, His breath which is upon us – it is this light which signals new life. Like a door which opens to another place, not of this world of darkness, so is the Lord to us.

And so we should be ready for His coming, if we wish to accompany Him to His home, through the narrow gate. Yes, we know the way is narrow

which leads to life, which leads to Light. Our hope of being present with Him there should lead us to the purity of soul needed to attain that blessed state. For how can we expect to enter there if the darkness clings to us? And why should we expect to be admitted if our hope is not strong enough? If we hope in Him, we shall come to Him. And if we come to Him, we shall be admitted. But if we doubt and turn away, our hearts desire Him not – and so in darkness we shall stay, as His children enter His Light.

But let us not delay. Let us not linger in doubt. Let us strive to shed the darkness, to acquire the Light. Let us apply ourselves to this cause in all we do and pray. A faint heart shall not enter there. New life comes not to those who fear. Fear only God – that He may remove you from His presence. Fear only Jesus – that you not serve Him well. Fear only the loss of New Life, not anything of this world.

Open your gates to us, O Lord. Make us ready to enter your presence. Form us in thy image each day, that we may become as you are.

This should be our prayer, brothers and sisters. This should be all we say in all we do. And we will feel His Light transform us – we will be made whole. We will be ready to enter there.

Brothers and sisters, sometimes I wonder how we with our limited minds, our limiting bodies, and our hearts inclined to sin, can even begin to dream of attaining eternal life. How can it be that we poor humans, who have fallen so gravely, can expect to enter new life in God? Then I remember, of course, our Lord's sacrifice and our own innate goodness that it

uncovers – and I know that it is only natural. We are sons of the living God. We are intended for life. And so to enter new life is but to step into a path that is cut for our feet to walk.

But still. Still the wonder of it is so overwhelming, is so monumental. Sometimes the thought of it will absolutely astound my soul. As it draws closer. As I sense it keenly. As I consider life with His angels and saints – sometimes the thought of it brings an ecstasy. And so to simplify it we must. To turn to humility is what saves us. To accept the Lord's presence we do; and so, penitent we enter there.

O Lord, how shall I dwell on the Light of your kingdom? What is proper for me to think? Keep my thoughts in line with your will, that I may remain in your grace.

Brothers and sisters, when in my mouth I taste the coming kingdom, when in my heart burns its truth, when to my eyes its light is present... only this I know and no more – that I do not deserve to enter there, that only in humility and by God's grace will I dwell there. For, again, how can we be there? How can this soul which is so human take on that which is immortal? Only by the touch of God.

As Isaiah's lips were touched by the coal from the altar of God and so made clean, so must we be touched by our LORD, if we hope to enter His door. We must be purged. We must be made new. We must give up all we are, all we know in this world, to find the life of the next. Purged of words, purged of human thought, must we be. Purged of any attachment to this skin, is the way we will enter. No thought for ourselves, we will find His grace. Leaving all upon the shore and following Him, this is our only hope.



A faith so true, brothers and sisters, this is what we need to accomplish our goal. A love so clear is what guides us there. Alone with our Lord we find all things; we see everyone in His eyes.

And so, though impoverished, it is this poverty that makes us whole. And so, though weak, in our weakness we become strong. And so, though my heart beat quickly at times in the effusive light of His presence, still I know – the old brown shoes I wear will suffice to take me there.

## 5

Yes, my brothers and sisters, we know our wills are as nothing; in fact, they are less than nothing, for what they detract from what God's will is.

Relentlessly, it seems, we try to divine our lives; we attempt, vainly, to form the flesh we are given. We so often fail to see that we do not own the space we're in – we are, at best, custodians in this world. But this is all we are. And so, we should avail our wills of the guidance of God, and not with stiff necks stay a course on which we alone have put ourselves.

May the Spirit enter in and clear any semblance of self-will from our poisoned minds and hearts. May we yield to the power of the Holy Spirit to save us from such darkness of soul. May we call upon His Spirit to redeem us from the pitfalls that surround us, into which we tend to stumble. For only by escaping such distractions, will we find ourselves upon the path to New Life.

I hesitate to mention such things. I would sooner concentrate solely on the glory of God. But the darkness not being addressed may tend to

linger on. And as there is always a glint of darkness attempting to divest us of what we have gained as we walk upon the road to God – as long as we are here, and but on our way – it is thus necessary to combat its allurements with the power of Light.

So, if in any way or at any time you find yourself subject to the wiles, the temptations, of the dark one and your own desires, remember always that the Lord is greater and His Spirit is available to you. He will come in. He will make you new. He will purge your soul and return you to the purity you require. He will prepare you for new life.

Repeatedly we must say: Holy Spirit, come. Take my life. Take all that I am and all that I do. Leave me not alone and to myself, but grace me with your blessings. And if we speak these words in truth, of this we can be sure - that the Holy Spirit will take us, and prepare us for the kingdom to come.

When the Holy Spirit takes our wills, there can be no darkness in our lives, for there is no darkness in the Spirit. The darkness comes only from ourselves; when we are of ourselves, we are lost. For when we presume to direct our days alone, it cannot but be that the darkness of this world will come in, and by it we will be enslaved. And so enslaved by our own desires, how can we ever be free? Only by surrendering our wills to our Lord, to the God and Father of all, do we find our wills unchained; for true freedom is found only in Him, and by Him is freely given.

So, turn to the Lord. Give to Him your will. And find freedom waiting there. For freedom comes only from forgiving sin, and His Light is all that will accomplish this in us.

Honestly I must tell you, brothers and sisters. Honestly must we speak to one another. For in honesty we cannot go wrong. In speaking the truth we will always be free. And we shall remain so, as long as the Spirit of truth is in you and in me.

We have nothing to fear when we speak the truth. When we live in honesty, the new life is ever upon us. Death comes only when we hide in darkness. When we come to the Light, all is indeed made new.

We may be attacked by the devil's temptations. He may beset us with certain fears. He may attempt to confuse our spirits. But by speaking the truth in honesty, addressing the matter to the Lord in prayer, bringing it to His holy altar, and offering it up to His Light and His care... quickly and completely you will find it vanish; soon you will see the return of new life.

Nothing sheds light like the truth. Against it the devil has no defense. For he cannot deny the power of what is; his illusions hold no sway in the Light of God. For God is the creator of the universe. In His hands He holds the life of all. And insofar as we join our souls to His power, our lives will be filled with light.

So, dear brothers and sisters, let us always take refuge in the truth. Let us always breathe in honesty the spirit of truth to all. This is our holy call. This is necessary to our very lives, and to our discovery and upbuilding of new life for ourselves. If we cannot be faithful in the little that we have in this world, in this world of the unrighteous mammon, how can we expect to inherit the life of the next world, with all the great responsibilities it entails? The Lord cannot give us the Light of life if we are not of the Light.

By our conversation will we be judged, and by our dealings with our fellow man. Do we deal honestly with one another? Do we speak aright? Are we living in His pure Light? Is there no lie within us? I pray we answer yes to all these questions. If we can, we already begin to know new life. And the fear in our hearts will disappear, and leave no trace of doubt to prevent our entering there.

Is it not wonderful to have recourse to the Lord? Are we not blessed to have Him so close at hand? That all we need to do is to call upon Him, all we need to do is speak His holy Name – all we need to do is converse in truth now, and in such honesty we shall be renewed.

We need not fear the terrors of the night, or the arrows that fly by day. We need harbor no questions or vain fantasies; for all answers and all life may be found there. There in that light of openness and honesty, and surrender to the Spirit, all our problems fall away. There we begin to see the Light, of the new and holy day.

7

Jesus is my Lord, brothers and sisters. Is He your Lord, too? Are we truly brothers and sisters in Christ? Let it be so, O Lord.

Yes, Jesus is our Lord. To Him do we bend the knee. Before Him do we bow, and pay homage to His kingship. And all men shall turn to Him with arms outstretched to receive their food in due season. All those redeemed from their sins shall come to Him and so know His grandeur and His mercy. And He shall place into their hands the bread they need to survive, the life to which they aspire. And all things shall be set right again, in the holy reign of the only Son of the Father.

It is joy to bow before Him, to honor Him, to give Him due praise. For He is worthy of all our cries and shouts of adulation. For He is the humblest of us all. And to honor the humble leads never to pride. And so, only joy do we find as we also humble ourselves and recognize Jesus as God.

And so we find the wellspring of Life. For it is Jesus, and our acknowledgement of His power, that is the source of new life. Even as we come to see that He is Lord and Redeemer; even as our minds are opened to His true presence; even as we bow before Him, are we raised to new life. And on that day when every knee does bow before Him... then the spring will have come to fullness; then its course will have been run to fruition; then the Lord will lead us in new life.

O Lord, that soon we might know that day. O Jesus, that from your loving arms we might never stray. O my God, that we might remember you forever, and be so pleased to find ourselves ever your faithful disciples. For the peace and glory of that day is beyond our human comprehension; in its blessedness it outstrips all pale imitation. And so it is our heart's desire. And being so, we know it we will come to know. For you are faithful to all our pleas, Lord. And you wish all good to come to us.

So, praise God for that coming day, and soon it shall be upon us. Pray earnestly to stand in His Light, and so you shall know its eternal beams. Praise the Lord for His greatness and power and kingship over all -and the truth of this praise will bring you closer to your heart's desire. For it is so. Though our eyes may be blind to its presence, it is so – Jesus is King, and His Light shines down upon everything.

Jesus is our Lord. This is all we need to know, all we need to see. For Jesus will show us everything; He will bring us to all truth. And so Life will be known, as by Jesus truth is shown. And we shall be one in Him. For as

He is my Lord, so, I know, He is your Lord, too. And the congregation of saints in heaven sing His glorious Truth in their praise. And as their knees bend to Him, a smile crosses the face of every one.

8

Brothers and sisters, let us speak of holy things. Let us avail ourselves of the sacred. That our minds might be renewed, that our hearts may indeed be as one. The glory of the Lord shines all about us; let us reveal its beams each to each.

That I am a sinner, I do but know – and so does the Lord show me everything. My shortcomings borne upon my mind, He sets me free for glory. For knowing now that I am blind, He opens my eyes to see.

What shall we discuss, brothers and sisters? Of what shall we speak? Shall we say how He is gracious to us and watches over us all our lives? Shall we speak of His faithfulness in answering all our prayers? Or shall we simply talk about His glory and His majesty, as best we can, and the blessed humility of His holy sacrifice? Where shall we begin, and what can we say to express our meager thankfulness to Him?

To me the Lord has been so kind. He has saved me from my sins. And though I have faltered more than once, yet He has saved me again. There is no telling if I should merit His eternal kingdom, for I know I do not. But I pray I shall be so disposed to accept His grace and mercy that day. I pray I shall accept His judgment whatever it may be.

For the Lord is righteous and greatly to be praised. All His ways are true, and His word it cannot lie. There is no mistake in the heart of the Lord.

And so, if He should sentence me to eternal condemnation, I cannot but say, "If it please you, Lord;" for I know He knows better than I. And if my condemnation should mean the greater glory of His holy ones – it is all the better. For so it should be in the kingdom of heaven.

Of this I have no doubt – that His judgment shall be right, His judgment shall be true. And in His judgment will be bred the best for all the world. In His judgment there shall be brought peace, and love and understanding. No more confusion shall be allowed to reign upon the face of His creation. All will be decided and all will be well, for all will be complete in His will.

And so, on that day I lie upon His sacred threshing floor, I pray all sin that I am, all darkness that I harbor, shall be torn away from me and cast into the fire. That only what is good may enter His kingdom, only what is pure may come through His gates – all else would I see tossed to one side. So that His saints may enter holy procession undisturbed by the dark devices of this world, I would see this darkness find its funeral pyre.

God bless all the children who carry His Light. God bless all those who have chosen Life. The Lord be with they who are so ordained by God, and bring them soon to eternal life.

The sacred things of God are known by His children. The holy things of life are kept in their hearts. And from this source of wealth for heaven, from this treasure they keep inside – shall rise the call to resurrection; it shall cause them to find the kingdom of God. While others weep and cry in torture, they will smile and laugh in holy innocence; they will know only the truth of Light.

New Life. New Life shall be our desire. Always and forever we shall long for His Light. Never will come a time when we turn away; always our hearts will be set upon His cross.

That the new life is borne in His cross may seem a contradiction. To eyes unknowing and ears untrained, it must seem absurd. But the truth of this is more obvious than anything, to we who have set our hearts upon His Love. For it is His Love which carries us to all knowledge. It is His sacrifice that brings light to our eyes. And our hearts are warmed by the grace of His teaching; our souls are won by the divinity of the Son.

In His cross is such glory. In His cross is the answer to all prayer. In His holy sacrifice, in His coming into our midst – in His taking this frame upon Himself He has brought to our existence the overwhelming possibility of renewal, of redemption from the darkness of sin. Now that He has come, now that He has visited His people, now that He has shown so clearly the way to the Father... now that He has by His cross revealed to us His humble and glorious calling - now can we set our hearts firmly on His kingdom; now can we take up our cross and follow.

And because of the cross the Spirit comes, the Spirit which even now enlivens our souls. Because of the cross, the world has died and allowed new life to begin. The Spirit breathes upon our once dead members and makes them new in Him; and His cross upon our shoulders, we join the ranks of the born-again.

For now from above we take our life; we draw our breath of the Spirit. No longer upon the flesh do we depend, but upon every word that issues forth from the mouth of God. And His words are as food for our very souls;



His words are spirit and life. For He has given us His body of which to partake, all as one in God. No longer needing the meat of this world, we are free to live His peace.

Do you feel the new life stirring within you, brothers and sisters? Do you see it growing all around you? Do you sense the kingdom coming in our presence? Is your prayer set upon the will of God? For if we commune with His Holy Spirit, if we ask to come into His fold – if we seek in earnest the will of the Lord and the life that it brings, we cannot help but know its presence becoming apparent in our lives. For the kingdom is nigh and it is the Lord's pleasure to reveal it to us; so, should we seek it, this we shall find.

New life is held in patience by all the Lord's holy disciples. His children know His presence in their hearts. And they allow it to grow to fulfillment throughout the days of their lives.

## 10

Live in the Spirit. We must live in the Spirit, only the Spirit. We must have life in the Spirit, and live it every day – every day. Our lives must be permeated with words of the Spirit, thoughts of the Spirit... direction which comes only from the Spirit. All our lives must be lived in accordance with the guidance of the Spirit – all our lives. There is no other way.

If we hope to gain new life, if we hope to maintain new life, we must become one with the Spirit of God; we must be spiritual beings. No longer living according to the flesh, our lives – all our words and actions – must be infused with the Light of the Spirit. This is new life. This is what we should long for, what we should strive for, if we are truly of Christ.

We cannot say one thing and do another. We cannot continually make excuses for our uncorrected offenses. We must change. We must offer ourselves up to the fire of purgation. We must let the Lord work in us. Truly. We must shed the old to take on the new. Our hearts must be intrinsically changed and recreated in the Love of God. No longer following our fancies, we must follow in the footsteps of our Lord.

As Mary, our Mother, became the spouse of the Spirit, so must we also be wed to the Spirit – we must become of the Spirit. She gave her life to God. She allowed the LORD to enter even into her womb. She gave herself completely to the Spirit, and so became one with the Spirit; and so became a spiritual being. So must we do. To such an extent must we be ready to serve our God. If we hope to find new life, we must begin to live the new life.

If Jesus is to be born in us and through us, if we are to bear fruit as a branch of His vine, we must certainly give ourselves to the Spirit. For if we have no water, no nourishment, which comes only from the river of the Lord's living water, we shall surely wilt and die. But if we remain in Him and abide near His streams in the place where His word does flourish... then the new life shall indeed blossom in our souls.

We know this, brothers and sisters. We know this clearly and completely. We must ask the Lord for the strength to follow this His word. We must seek His grace, and an increase in faith, if we are to find this. We must learn to trust ever more in the Lord and see that His kingdom indeed surrounds us. For as we seek so shall we find. And as great as our faith is so will be our reward. But if we have not love, we shall be lost. And if we pray not well, we shall receive no answer.

So, let us set our hearts on new life. Let us pray indeed the kingdom come. Let us with all the strength of our souls strive to open our eyes to the

light that shines all about us. For our Lord has said the kingdom is nigh. He has told us it is within us, and in the midst of us. So, what have we to do but cleanse our hearts, to know its presence even as did He.

It is here with us, this new life. We have felt it in our conversions; we have heard it in His words; we have tasted it in His blessed flesh and blood. It is here, and remains here. It will stay with us till the end of time. It lives as an eternal reminder of our ultimate call to heaven, when its fulfillment shall be known before the LORD's throne. So, never should we feel alone. Never need we despair. For the Light of the Lord is here even in this world, through the blood of our Savior.

## 11

In the Book of Life we pray our names be written, that one day we may see them there upon the LORD's holy paper.

This parchment on which the names of those redeemed by the Savior's blood is penned, is as light as spiritual breath; the Book itself is made of Light and the words indeed are wrought by the Spirit.

As if written in the sky, so are the words of the Spirit; so are our names in that Book. And when its seal is broken and the words within are read forth... when it is revealed to all the truth that is contained therein... then will we rejoice in gladness, or will we be condemned for our sin?

We can only pray the Lord will call us forth. We can only hope to abide in His Home. We can only align our lives with His Spirit, and accept His holy Word.

For better or worse we resign ourselves to His will. Till death does come and the resurrection is known, we can only call on His Name. And

when the final sentence is passed, when comes the final stroke of the pen...  
nothing more can we do, then pray the LORD let us live again.

In His Love,

James H. Kurt