

WE WANT TO SEE JESUS!

by Ekkehard Hornburg

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me. And where I am, there My servant will be also.

John 12:24-26

Some Greeks who had come to Jerusalem asked Philip, one of Jesus' disciples, "We would like to see Jesus." Philip told Jesus this, and Jesus replied that a grain of wheat must first die in order to bear fruit. What did he mean by that?

Jesus meant that he must die on the cross so that he can live in us. Without his death on the cross, we could never see or experience Jesus. Jesus died on the cross so that he could live within us. He told his disciples that it was better for him to return to the Father, because then he would come back to them in a different form and would not only be with them but within them forever.

When Jesus was on earth, he could only be in one place at a time. He was with his disciples, but not yet within them. After his death, resurrection, and ascension, he returned to them at Pentecost in the person of the Holy Spirit and has lived within his disciples ever since.

We, his disciples, now make Jesus visible. When you look in the mirror, you see "Jesus." Jesus appears to people today through you. When they meet you, they meet Jesus, for it is no longer you who live, but Jesus lives in you. Paul said: "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live is no longer my own, but His." Jesus lives in your body today. Your hands are His hands, your feet are His feet, your eyes are His eyes, and your mouth is His mouth.

When Jesus speaks of the seed that dies, He also means that we must die to our ego and live a crucified life so that the world can see and experience Him in us. Whoever loves his life loses it; whoever loses his life gains it. Jesus lost his life on the cross, and we believe that we have died with

him and risen with him to a new life. Now we no longer live for ourselves, and it is no longer about "I," "mine," "me," or "myself," but rather: "Lord, what do you want me to do?" Not my will, but your will be done. Our old life has died with Christ, and we now live a new life under new guidance; the old has passed away, and everything has become new.

Our desires, dreams, and goals have been renewed. We want what Jesus wants. His will is our will. We are to always pray as Jesus prayed: "Father, not my will, but your will be done." Jesus did have a will of His own, but He always submitted it to the Father's will. Unless a grain of wheat dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Whoever clings to his life loses it, and whoever lets it go gains it.

Paul said that we should consecrate our lives as a living sacrifice to God. A sacrifice dies, and we have died with Christ. We are dead to sin, dead to sickness, and dead to the world. A dead person cannot be infected; a dead person cannot lie or steal; and you cannot insult a dead person. Our flesh does not want to be dead, but we are to live as if it were dead.

Reinhard Bonnke was once asked for the secret to his successful ministry. He said, "I am dead to criticism, and I am dead to praise." How do you react when you are praised, or when you are criticized? With Jesus, they first shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna to the one who is coming," and a day later they shouted, "Crucify him." How did Jesus react? He prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The world wants to see Jesus, but that can only happen if we, like the grain of wheat, have died and allow Jesus to live in us.

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