



Lazarus lay dead in the tomb. For him to be raised a power of powers, the power of the Holy Spirit had to carry the words of Jesus to him, cause the dead man to hear and impart life to his entire being and bring together his spirit, soul and body. The power of the Holy Spirit that was in Christ and upon Christ wrought these things, and soon Lazarus was walking out of the tomb alive. What if someone on whom the power of the Holy Spirit was not resting in full measure had gone to that grave side and

shouted for Lazarus to come out? You know what would have happened – nothing would have happened. Lazarus would have remained in the grave – dead. The power, the full power of the Holy Spirit was upon the Lord Jesus and when He spoke, life was imparted to dead Lazarus.

All sinners are as dead as Lazarus was. They are dead but they walk around. They are dead but they speak, think, act and respond in the natural. In the natural they are alive, but in the spiritual they are dead, dead, dead. For a sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, to receive God's life and pass from death unto life in the Lord Jesus, the same power of the Holy Spirit that operated to give physical life to dead Lazarus must operate in him to give him God's life. Consequently, without the power of the Holy Spirit filling a man and continuing to fill a man, all that he is doing in the domain of evangelism, soul-winning and church-planting is a work of the flesh and cannot bring anyone to eternal life. In true conversion, the power of the Holy Spirit operates so that the words of the witness are transformed into words that are Spirit and Life. These words which are Spirit and Life go out in the power of the Holy Spirit to impart Spirit and Life to the one who is dead in trespasses and sins. As the one who was dead in trespasses and sins receives God's Spirit and God's Life, he is instantly made alive and becomes a new creature in Christ. He hates sin immediately because the life that he has received is utterly opposed to sin. He is alive towards God the Father, He is alive towards God the Son. He is alive towards God the Holy Spirit. He is alive towards the promises of God. He is alive towards repentance towards God and begins to repent. He is alive towards faith in the Lord Jesus and begins to exercise that faith in Christ. The love of the world dies in his heart and continues to die.