

# *Alive And Unbound!*

By Randal Stephens



You're a Christian. You go to church, pay your tithes and read your Bible. You seek God for His will in your life and you obey His Word. You love the Lord with all your heart. But something is missing.

Your job is empty; you believe God has called you to more but you have no idea what that is. In fact, you wonder if you can hear His voice at all.

Your deepest prayers go unanswered. You seek God daily, sometimes in tears on your face before Him, but you always seem to come away just short of the total immersion in His presence you long for.

You don't feel free. The temptations in your life before you were saved linger still; they never leave. And if you're not fighting the enemy, you're fighting yourself.

What is keeping you from experiencing the fullness of God?

Well, Lazarus knew.

In John 11, John says Jesus loved Lazarus (v.3, 36); Jesus even called him friend (v.11). So when Lazarus became sick, his sisters sent for Jesus. But when Jesus finally arrived, Lazarus was dead four days. He already stunk.

Jesus wept for His friend. And then He raised Lazarus from the dead.

But when Lazarus emerged, he didn't come out running or even walking to Jesus. He squirmed and hopped around, fighting just to take one step. Because Lazarus was bound, head to toe, in grave clothes.

Lazarus didn't experience freedom until Jesus ordered the grave clothes taken off him.

Lazarus' death is yours. It is the separation from Jesus you knew when you were living in sin. His resurrection, however, is also yours, the one you were given when you were saved.

In almost every case though, the grave clothes remain. They bind you. They are thick with the stink of sin and death and must be removed. But there is only one way.

You can't tithe, work, or even pray yourself free. For some it comes through months of counseling, and for some, it comes in just one night. But if you are to be free, this must happen. If you are to be free, you must receive God's Love.

It's not about *being* loved; you are *already* loved. No, you must *receive* that love, surrender to it. You must let it crush the dam, rush into the empty spaces, and wash everything else away.

You work so hard. You carry it all, for your family, your church, your friends. You pray to love better, to *be* better. But you can't love God or others or even yourself; you can't change, grow, or be free until you know the living love of God.

You cannot love God until you first allow Him to love you!

There's no formula. But once it happens, it is unmistakable. Once it happens, you will walk, alive and unbound!



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