

### Faith life Weekly: 4/3/08

Sometimes it's good to just give God praise.

We have just come through Holy Week and Easter. We waved the palms. We shouted Hosanna! The shouts quickly became cries for crucifixion.

I am not sure I would have said those words. But then again as human as I am, I am always getting caught up in the crowd.

At Family Bible camp, the camp that I love, they have been portraying the days of Christ for years. They call it the "Christ Hike" When I was on staff there I never played the part of the "Christus". But I played the part of Pilate, and I helped crucify Jesus. I helped put him on the cross. I played the trumpet for effects; "Were you there" was the song". One year a rainbow suddenly appeared at the last scene of the evening. It was amazing.

The point is Jesus has done so much.

And then before long the shouts changed to "He is risen!" Have you ever considered what Jesus' Resurrection means for us? Why has Jesus risen? What are the reasons in your life that Jesus has risen? For all the failures and foibles, and mix-ups maybe. For all the times in which you fell and you felt as though you could not get back up and going again.

I want to share something with you. I was prepping for my latest marathon race and I was getting a little bit nervous. I talked to my wife about it. This was one year after my heart surgeries. I had trained hard but in the few weeks before the race I had developed a chest cold and I was not able to train like I wanted. I had pains in my joints, getting older. Things didn't look very promising. Then the night before the race I ran across these words from scripture that talk about God raising us up.

Let me share them with you now: *"Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not grow weary, they shall walk and not faint."* (Isaiah 40: 31)

I made it through the race but not without God's help. This was God's resurrection verse for me at that very moment. I reached the finish line because Jesus spells "Resurrection", because God renewed my strength, because God helped me to finish the race even though I was growing weary. How about if you spend some time praising God today? Here's a song that we like to sing in our LIVE Worship Team. Let the words of the song guide your prayers:

#### Song:

*"Beautiful One"*, written by Tim Hughes, and recorded by artists Jeremy Camp and Chris Tomlin (Check out the Music videos at You Tube: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=acspX34Guu4> <http://youtube.com/watch?v=pdF.cBKCBU>; <http://youtube.com/watch?v=sMyWOzY14&feature=related>

**Wonderful, so wonderful  
Is your unfailing love  
Your cross has spoken mercy over me  
No eye has seen no ear has heard  
No heart could fully know  
How glorious, how beautiful you are.**

**Beautiful one I love you  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing.**

**Powerful so powerful  
Your glory fills the skies  
Your mighty works displayed for all to see**

The beauty of your majesty  
Awakes my heart to see  
How marvelous how wonderful you are.

Beautiful one I love you  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing.  
Beautiful one I love you  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing.

You opened my eyes to your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
Because nothing on Earth is as beautiful as you  
You opened my eyes to your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
Because nothing on Earth is as beautiful as you are.

Beautiful one I love you  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing.  
Beautiful one I love you  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing.

And you opened my eyes to your wonders anew  
You captured my heart with this love  
Because nothing on earth is as beautiful as you are.  
 Wonderful so wonderful is your unfailing love  
Your cross is spoken mercy over me  
No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no heart can fully know  
How glorious, how beautiful you are

(Chorus)  
Beautiful one I love  
Beautiful one I adore  
Beautiful one my soul must sing

Powerful so powerful your glory fills the skies  
Your mighty works displayed for all to see  
The beauty of your majesty awakes my heart to sing  
How marvelous, how wonderful you are

(Chorus)

You've opened my eyes to your wonders anew  
Captured my heart with this love  
'Cause nothing on this earth is as beautiful as you

My soul my soul must sing(x3)  
Beautiful one  
P.R.