



Tim Talk
June 2010

**“Wake up, O sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine upon you.”
~Ephesians 5:14 (NIV)**

I “stumbled” across this verse while sitting by the river a couple of weeks ago and studying for the weekend teaching. It was as if the Holy Spirit stretched His hand out from the page of my Bible and grabbed my heart. “Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead!” The Father was calling to me from these ancient words, but why the need to tell me to wake up? The realization hit me like a bullet to the chest.

I have been asleep...for nearly my entire life.

Really? How can someone be asleep for most of their life? Is that even possible?

It is possible, and it is my reality.

Think about the things Jesus taught His disciples. He said that they could ask for anything and it would be done for them, that they would do greater things than He did. He gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach that the kingdom of God was near and to heal the sick. He told them to make disciples of all the tribes of the earth. He demonstrated that nothing is impossible with God.

I call myself a Christian, a disciple of Jesus Christ. And yet, when I read the words that Christ spoke to His followers...I just...I don't know...I guess I feel like I'm just waking up from a deep sleep, as if someone put a spell on me. Have you ever heard that saying about someone sleeping so soundly that they are “dead to the world?”

Here's my point: I think a spell has been placed upon me by someone, and that “someone” is satan, the father of lies. I have been walking through my life in a misty dream, pretty much dead to the cries of the world. Many of us are stuck in the same foggy reality, and if you don't think you are, ask yourself this question: When was the last time you felt the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead(!) surge through your heart, soul, and body to bring the kingdom of God near to someone who needed it?

I pray that these words will penetrate through the malaise that has gripped the heart of New Hope, and that we, as a body, will wake up and let Christ shine upon us. When we stand up and let God shine through us in all His glorious wonder...what an awakening that will be! (see Isaiah 26:16-19 in the NIV)

