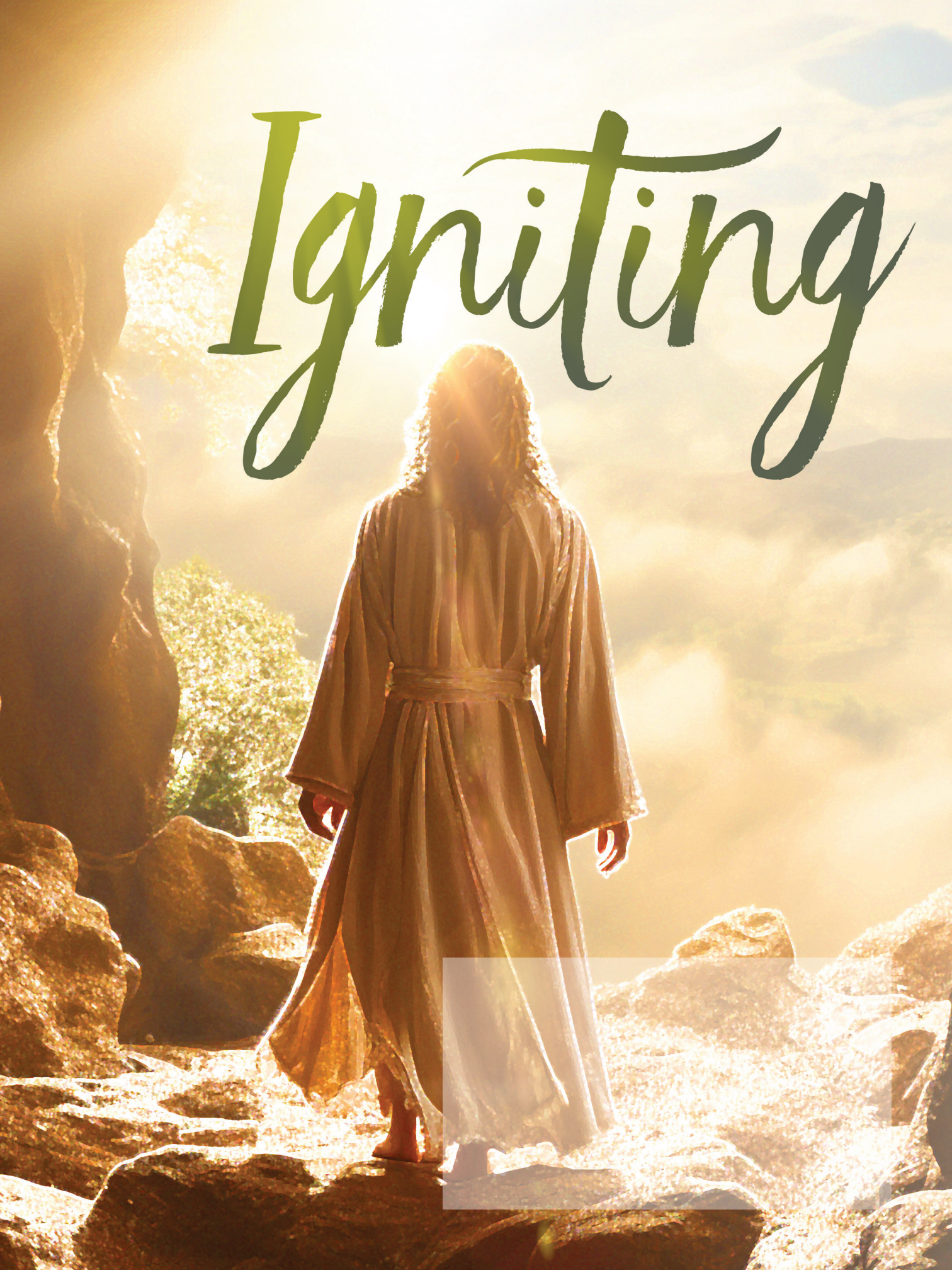


Igniting



the Power of Faith

How the Resurrection of Jesus can transform belief into ACTIVE FAITH

BY RENEE DELORIEA

The Resurrection of Jesus is the power within Easter's celebrations. There is profound reverence and joy in the triumphant rising of Jesus Christ from the dead after His crucifixion, symbolizing victory over sin and death. It is a testament to the divine power of God, illustrating the promise of eternal life for those who believe on Jesus for redemption from sin. It is the tangible moment in which both Christ followers as well as "pre-believers" may take hold of hope incarnate, secure in knowing death is not the end but the shift forward to an everlasting future in heaven with God.

The Easter season therefore can be a threshold for believers, when faith blossoms like Springtime to grow into a joyful future of living out biblical wisdom for day-by-day Christlikeness, serving God's kingdom and glorifying His name.

Faith Sown and Tended for Bountiful Harvest

"I refuse to be an ordinary man because I have an extraordinary God who makes extraordinary people," said Smith Wigglesworth. At age 48, this ordinary plumber, who was born into poverty in 1859 in England, was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

He would be nicknamed "Apostle of Faith," but his faith journey was not as straightforward as some may assume. Instead, like all of us, he lived in the tension between faith and struggle. Like all of us, he did not become a giant in the faith overnight. Instead, he went from faith to more faith.

Wigglesworth moved from nominal faith as a child, to going with his grandmother

explained that Jesus conquered hell, rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. At the end of the 16th class, the women all stood up and began weeping. I had no idea what was going on until my translator knelt in front of me and said that all the mothers asked her to represent them in thanking me for coming all the way from America to tell them about Jesus.

“Before you came, we only thought of Jesus as a baby,” she said. “Now we understand. And, I don’t want to just say that for them, I also want to thank you for myself,” she said before breaking into tears. Once I had gotten past the shock of what had just happened, my own tears flowed. Then, I stood at the door as, one by one, each mother took my hands in hers and thanked me before passing through the doorway.

Like me during my senior year of college, they had wanted to know; and so, they had come back week after week. Then, they even brought their husbands to an additional class session so that I could explain it to them.

During that time, I learned that my classes had been a main topic of

discussion for weeks. I later learned that missionary friends had started a home church near the school and some of the parents were attending.

Beauty For Ashes

Before going to Japan, I had a dark night of the soul when I took a Hermeneutics class at a Bible college. After learning about the wonders of the concordances, lexicons and commentaries, I bought every Bible study tool I could afford and hunkered down with them at my dining room table for a few months.

The effect was two-fold. On the one hand, I learned about God’s love. On the other hand, I came to realize that for many years I had been misled by very heavy-handed preaching that took Scriptures out of context and painted God as being cruel and distant.

A few more spiritual and emotional injuries later, I felt like my life had been a waste and I was devastated. Grief began to set in, but God did not leave me in despair. Slowly but surely, He led me to take baby steps back toward Him.

My first baby step was to hold my

Bible while I slept. Even though I was afraid to open my Bible, I found comfort in holding it. Then, I watched Christian television for 30 seconds a day for one week, and then week after week I added 30 more seconds. When I had reached five minutes a day at the end of the 10th week, I realized I had conquered a fear one baby step at a time. From there, I read a little more of my Bible each day and soon my love for reading and hearing God’s Word was deeper than ever.

It Would Have Been Enough

Recounting what God has done for us strengthens our own faith. Sharing our testimonies strengthens our own faith and the faith of other people.

During Passover seder a song called “Dayenu” is sung. The literal meaning of the Hebrew word, *Dayenu*, is “it would have been enough.” In life application it can imply that if God had only moved on our behalf one time, it would have been enough. The song recounts 15 different times in history when God miraculously moved on behalf of the Israelites, from slavery in Egypt to the building of the Temple in Israel. Each of the 15 stanzas that celebrates God’s intervention is followed by a chorus expressing that if God had only intervened that one time, it would have been enough.

We can also apply *Dayenu* with expressions of celebrations and thankfulness that if our salvation was the only way that God moved on our behalf, it would have been enough. In the words of Jonathan Edwards, capturing our lives made possible only in the Resurrected Christ, “The death of Christ was the greatest and most wonderful event that ever came to pass; but that has a great deal in it that is sorrowful. But by the Resurrection of Christ, that sorrow is turned into joy.” ◀

During the Brownsville Revival, **RENEE DELORIEA** was the managing editor of the Brownsville Revival Magazine, a columnist for the Remnant Newspaper and a freelance writer for Charisma magazine. Since then, she has edited books and written articles for numerous media outlets. She lives in Nashville.

“The Easter season is a threshold for believers,

when faith blossoms into living out day-by-day Christlikeness.”