

Crown Him Lord of Life...

The lives of believers are written into the hymns we sing. There is a melding together by the Holy Spirit of our experiences with the words of a hymn that gives life to our worship. Long association with the words and melodies is used by God to trigger our memories of past experiences. By them, we are reminded of God's presence in worship. The connection revives our relationship with the living God.

Recently, I was reminded of this when at worship we stood to sing "Crown Him with many Crowns." As we began the third verse, "Crown Him the Lord of Life: Who triumphed o'er the grave," I was again presiding over my mother's funeral singing these same words. Ever since that day, whenever that hymn is sung I relive that moment. This time, however, the added realization that the one who now lies dead was the very one who gave me life, who nurtured me, who, before my first breath, dedicated my life to the service of Him whom we now praised. With a burst of emotion, the love, the joy, the hope which is ours flooded my soul.

We continued to sing, "Who rose victorious to the strife for those he came to save..." and there came a renewed sense of the power of Christ and His salvation. "His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high, Who died eternal life to bring and lives that death may die."

That chain of events started 26 years ago and continues now as an ever new experience of God's presence. It's not the mode, age or style of the hymns we sing but the blending of Spirit and the word with our spirit that gives life to those worshipping.

Luke 24:5-7 (King James Version)

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

