

## Scars of Love

*Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and My God."—John 20:27-28*

Scars tell a story. When my mother was about six years old the family was lighting candles to place on the Christmas tree. She bent over the flame and her dress caught fire. Her aunt rushed up and put the fire out with her hands. She bore the scars of her love the remainder of her life.

Jesus suffered the violence of the crucifixion and it left scars as a testimony of His great love. Jesus' wounds served as a way for the disciples to know that He was the one who had died for them. John's gospel says, "They rejoiced when they saw the Lord."

As followers of Christ, our mourning over His death is transformed into the celebration of His life at the resurrection. Death does not have the final word. Christ's resurrection brings hope and assurance that our often wounded lives here on earth will one day experience the celebration of life with our Lord. In I Corinthians 15, Paul expounds on the resurrection and he ends the chapter with these words, "*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.*"

The scars of Jesus serve to remind us of the astounding unfathomable love of God for us. His hands reach out to us and offer joy and hope to come. They promise that He will be with us as we toil and suffer here on earth. And one day we will be with Him and proclaim with Thomas, "My Lord and My God."