

## The Resurrection of Jesus

Opening texts: 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Acts 1:1-3

*“He presented Himself alive by many infallible proofs”*

- a) Jesus presented Himself ALIVE
- b) By many infallible proofs
  - Unmistakable, unquestionable, convincing proofs. There was ample and undeniable evidence
  - He was seen for 40 days, by 500 people

Most witnesses were alive at the time of Paul’s writings. Paul is basically saying, “if you do not believe me, you can ask them”. There is no stronger evidence than that. Jesus wants to continue to present Himself alive to our generation and He is still producing infallible proofs of the fact that He is alive!

I have had people ask me: “how do you know Jesus is alive? What proofs can you give me of His resurrection?” I normally answer that question in 3 ways:

- a) There is enough **historical** reference (from different sources, religious and secular) that the resurrection did really happen,
- b) Then, there is my **personal** experience of Him (and that of many others) that show that He is alive.
- c) Finally, there is **supernatural** evidence around, today! if miracles that we read about in the Gospels are happening today, He must be alive today.

### 1. Historical

There is ample historical evidence that the resurrection really happened. It is an historical fact. Both Jewish and Roman sources (like Josephus) admit to the empty tomb. Historian Dr. Paul Maier said that “*positive evidence from a hostile source is the strongest historical evidence*”.

- Professor EM Blaiklock of the Auckland University said:  
*“I claim to be an historian. My approach to Classics is historical. And I tell you that the evidence for the life, the death and the resurrection of Christ is better authenticated than most facts of ancient history”.*
- Professor Clark Pinnock from the McMaster University said:

*“There exists no document from the ancient world, witnessed by so excellent a set of historical testimonies. Skepticism regarding the historical credentials of Christianity is based upon an irrational bias”.*

- Dr. F.F. Bruce from the Manchester University said,

*“If the New testament were a collection of secular writings, their authenticity would generally be regarded as beyond doubt”*

## 2. Personal

I know Jesus is alive because I had a personal encounter and a revelation of Him in my life.

- a) Paul had never seen Jesus in the flesh but on the road to Damascus, he had a personal encounter with Him.
- b) **Luke 24: 13-35** describes the story of 2 very despondent disciples of Jesus ready to return home, after His crucifixion.

However, at one point their eyes were opened to Jesus walking with them along the road. They had a revelation of Jesus. That revelation came as they “constrained Him” or “urged Him strongly” (NIV) to stay with them. I believe that Jesus will reveal Himself to anyone that seeks Him with intention and sincerity.

Your personal encounter with Jesus, your revelation of Him becomes an infallible proof, to you, that He is alive.

## 3. Supernatural

- a) **The baptism of the Holy Spirit as evidence that Jesus is alive**

The early church experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus had promised. The disciples spoke in tongues they had never learned, to the amazement of all the people that heard them. Peter used this supernatural event to demonstrate that Jesus was indeed alive.

**Acts 1:5,8** - the promise. **Acts 2:29-33, 37, 38**

***He poured out***– The baptism of the Holy Spirit was used as evidence that Jesus, the Baptizer was alive! He is still doing it today! Around 600 million Christians in the world today claim to have received this same blessing.

**Acts 10:40, 44** – As Peter was speaking about Jesus being raised from the dead, the Holy Spirit fell upon Cornelius and his family, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit like in Acts 2.

**b) Healings, miracles, signs and wonders in the name of Jesus**

**Acts 3:6** – sickness gone in the name of Jesus.

The healing of that man was used to demonstrate to the people that Jesus was alive:

**14-16:** *<sup>14</sup> But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup> and killed the Prince of life, **whom God raised from the dead**, of which we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup> And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

**4:2** – [the Sadducees] *being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus **the resurrection from the dead.***

They were greatly disturbed. Just when they thought that Jesus was out of the picture, he was back!

**4:7, 10,13-16**

**V.33** – *“and with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all”*

### **Conclusion**

Jesus is still presenting Himself ALIVE by many infallible proofs! He is still touching people today and above all still inviting them to encounter Him, to believe Him and receive eternal life.