

Because He lives

This morning we are celebrating all that Jesus has done and is continuing to do in us and through us, because of His resurrection.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the pivotal point of belief for every Christian believer, it is our foundation of our faith and practice.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NASB)

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Millions of believers all over the world are celebrating and remembering the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the impact and the consequences in our own lives of His resurrection.

★ Today I have four headings

1. Resurrected Hope
2. Resurrected Purpose
3. Resurrected Passion
4. Resurrected Life

1. Resurrected Hope

What must it have felt like early on that resurrection morning?

Confusion

The Bible tells us that the disciples experienced

- fear
- joy and
- wrestled with unbelief

★ Jesus spent time with His disciples and reassured them that He was alive

Acts 1:3 (NASB)

To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

The apostle Paul stated that after His resurrection Jesus appeared to over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:5)

From the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out the resurrection of Jesus Christ has been the central theme of the churches teaching and preaching.

When the apostles Peter and John were challenged after the healing of the crippled man at the Temple gate

Acts 4:10 (NASB)

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.

★ He is alive — We live because He lives

1 Peter 1:3 (NASB)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

(Brian Simmons — TPT 1:3)

Peter states that the first result of our new birth is that we are brought into a living hope in the power of God, based on the resurrection of Christ. The God of resurrection gives us a powerful hope to excel in life.

Our faith is in Jesus Christ, the only one who claimed to be God and proved it by rising from the dead.

And because of His resurrection we are empowered to live victorious lives, to overcome and rise above everything life throws at us.

Also, it is not just the Bible record that proves Christ's resurrection, it is every person who has had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ experienced His resurrection power and had their life transformed.

★ You and I, we who believe are living testimonies to the resurrection power of Jesus Christ!

Dead and dying raised to life

David was gravely ill, afflicted with disease and suffering terribly as a result of his many years of drug abuse and addiction. He also had an intestinal flat worm living in his brain and was literally in the last days of his life.

Scans of his lungs showed them to be damaged beyond repair. David lived in constant pain and there was nothing more the doctors could do for him.

He had given up and did not want to live. In this state of mind he took a drug overdose attempting to kill himself, but it didn't work and he did not die.

Desperate to find relief he sought help and tried many things to relieve his suffering, including a visit to a priest and also the government drug rehabilitation program.

But nothing and no one could help him!

Sick and with no desire to live, his days were spent lying on his bed waiting to die.

David's wife had already purchased a coffin and preparations were being made for his funeral.

Then one day a friend visited him and told him about a group of people in the next town who could probably help him.

So with the little strength he had left he was taken to visit a small house church.

David told me, "I felt the power of God."

Right from the beginning of this first visit he knew something was different about these people.

The believers told him about Jesus, His power to forgive and heal. That day David surrendered his life to Christ.

The believers prayed for him and then they made arrangements for him to be sent to a Christian drug rehabilitation centre. There he was delivered from his drug addiction, healed and his body completely restored.

Two years later I was sitting in his lounge room with him, telling me his story.

2. Resurrected Purpose

He is the reason we live and it is He who gives us purpose in life.

Everything we need in this life and the next comes because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

A part of the apostle's Paul's prayer

Ephesians 1:18-20 (NASB)

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

★ Set free to live a life of purpose serving Christ and His Kingdom

In the words of the old song....

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives

When Jesus raised Lazarus he also untied him from the grave cloths that bound him

John 11:43-44 (NASB)

When He (Jesus) had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

- What are you battling with?
- What is holding you back?
- What holds you captive?

For many it has been a difficult year, times of uncertainty, lives turned upside down.

- Post Traumatic Stress
- Feelings of frustration, disappointment, confusion and anxiety
- Dreams that are shattered
- Has passion died
- Has fear taken up residence

★ It's time to throw those things off — begin to declare the truth, Christ is alive and His Spirit is living in me.

Romans 8:11 (NASB)

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

We can declare with confidence....

I am filled with power by the Spirit of the Lord, let the weak say, "I am strong!"

3. Resurrected Passion

The Holy Spirit has come to fill us with power and boldness to testify that Jesus Christ is alive

We who believe cannot keep this Good News to ourselves.

Colossians 1:27-28 (TPT)

Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly

treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

28–29 Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labor with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ.

- ★ We are the sole guardians of this of message of hope. We cannot be complacent, we must be bold, we must speak

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

4. Resurrected life

Is death active in your life?

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Are you beaten, broken, gripped in sin's bondage?

This is our hope — Jesus Christ is alive

1 Peter 3:18 (TPT)

Christ suffered and died for sins once and for all—the innocent for the guilty —to bring you near to God by his body being put to death and by being raised to life by the Spirit.

Or you might be entangled with religion — The apostle Paul preaching to 'very religious' people in Athens, concludes with....

Acts 17:30-31 (NASB)

Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead.

- ★ Yes, Jesus is alive and He is inviting you to believe.

Pray

Dear God I am calling out to you to save me.

I believe Jesus died and rose again from the dead to set me free from my sin.

I turn away from my sin and surrender my life to you.

I receive your forgiveness

Jesus, come into my life, fill me with your resurrection power.

I receive you and now I will follow and serve you all the days of my life

Thank you Jesus, Amen