Experience the Resurrection that Changes Everything

The Resurrection is the ground of our assurance, it is the basis for all our future hopes, and it is the source of power in our daily lives here and now. It gives us courage in the midst of persecution, comfort in the midst of trials, and hope in the midst of this world's darkness. – John MacArthur



 A group of disciples who were covering behind closed doors become fearless evangelists ready to confront the most powerful people in their culture – even calling them and the people to account for the death of Jesus.

The Resurrection Changed Everything

Acts 2:22-24 (NLT2)

²²"People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know.²³ But God knew what would happen, and His prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed Him to a cross and killed Him. ²⁴But God released Him from the horrors of death and raised Him back to life, for death could not keep Him in its grip.



Resurrection Gives Us Authority Based On Eternal Power

• Acts 5:29-33 (NLT2)

²⁹ But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed Him by hanging him on a cross. ³¹ Then God put Him in the place of honor at His right hand as Prince and Savior. He did this so the people of Israel would repent of their sins and be forgiven. ³² We are witnesses of these things and so is the Holy Spirit, who is given by God to those who obey Him." ³³ When they heard this, the high council was furious and decided to kill them.

1 Corinthians 15:45 **(NLT2)** ⁴⁵ The Scriptures tell us, "The first man, Adam, became a living person." But the last Adam—that is, Christ is a life-giving Spirit.

Overwhelming

- The last few months have been times of isolation and fear, of grief and loss.
- Their effect can be one of profound discouragement and despair that leave us void of joy.

On EASTER God the Father showed the world a love that is stronger than death. His love can do the impossible. God the Father raised the Son • Acts 5:30 (NLT2) ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead after you killed Him by hanging Him on a cross.

God the Father raised the Son. The Son testified of the Father's love. Now we must share too.

Acts 13:29-33 (NLT2) "When they had done all that the prophecies said about Him, they took him down from the cross and placed him in a tomb. ³⁰ But God raised Him from the dead! ³¹ And over a period of many days He appeared to those who had gone with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem. They are now His witnesses to the people of Israel.

The resurrection is good news for the whole world

What do we say to the world when it screams that if a loving God really existed, he would do something about child abuse, sex trafficking, and massive starvation? Our answer, of course, is that God will one day make everything right. But it's easy for unbelievers to say, "Oh yeah? Prove it!

Acts 17:31 (NLT2) ³¹ For He has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man He has appointed, <u>and He proved to everyone</u> who this is by raising Him from the dead."

Resurrection is the defeat of death

- It is an enemy. It is an enemy that will be destroyed because of Jesus victory over death on Easter.
- It has no power over the Christian who has understood this. We grieve but not as people who have no hope. 1 Thess 1:13
- The ancients had no words for it. Resuscitation, sure. But resurrection? No

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NLT2) I passed on to you what was most 3 important and what had also been passed on to me. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as the Scriptures said

1 Corinthians 15:21-26 (NLT2)

²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man.²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when He comes back. ²⁴ After that the end will come, when He will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power.²⁵ For Christ must reign until He humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶ And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Resurrection Is God's Answer to Earth's Cry

- How many of us have "kind of" fixed something, only to find it didn't stay fixed?
- How did that make you feel?
 - Inside, did you half-expect your failure?
 - Or had you walked away confident that you had done what it took to fix it?

Resurrection is what only God can do, when there seems there's nothing that can be done

Lazarus was resuscitated.

It gave him more time, but his time did later run out.

Resurrection Confidence

• Romans 8:31-34 (NLT2)

³¹ What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?
³² Since He did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?
³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one—for God Himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and He is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Resurrection Living Gives Confidence About the Future

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT2)

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Resurrection is a gift that brings us peace

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (NLT2)

²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

Resurrection Living Gives Power Now

• Romans 8:11 (NLT2) ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Resurrection Living Is Freedom and Fruitfulness

Romans 7:4-6 (NLT2)

⁴ So, my dear brothers and sisters, this is the point: You died to the power of the law when you died with Christ. And now you are united with the one who was raised from the dead. As a result, we can produce a harvest of good deeds for God. ⁵ When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced a harvest of sinful deeds, resulting in death. ⁶ But now we have been released from the law, for we died to it and are no longer captive to its power. Now we can serve God, not in the old way of obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way of living in the Spirit.

Resurrection Power to Serve

- "What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call building for God's kingdom." - N.T. Wright, <u>Surprised by</u> Hope: Rethinking Heaven,
 - the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church

