

Gospel together. Without it, Christians are believing in vain and are without hope. But since Christ has raised, we have hope of having our sins forgiven, being made right in God's sight, and having eternal life through Christ.

**"The Holy Spirit Will Be Poured Out Into The Hearts Of Those Who Believe"**



After Christ had risen and ascended, He was able to send the promised Holy Spirit to continue His work on earth. This means that Christ's earthly ministry continues today through His people, in Whom He dwells by the Holy Spirit. This also means that Christ will help His people by the Spirit, strengthening them, convicting them, guiding them into the life that God desires.

**"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise**

**of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."** (Acts 2:33)

**"The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Means That We Will Be Raised Like Him"**

Christ is described as the **Firstfruits** of the resurrection from the dead, meaning that his resurrection is a precursor to the resurrection that all believers (1 Corinthians 15:20). 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 explains, **"For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive."** Christians will enjoy the resurrected life just like Christ did, with glorified bodies raised in power (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). We may suffer in this life with many pains and illnesses, but in the life to come, we will not suffer, but enjoy the perfect bodies we have always longed for.

**"Christ Will Judge The World In Righteousness"**

**"The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man Whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."** (Acts 17:30-31)

All of the world will one day be judged for the things they have done and be held accountable before God. Unbelievers will be held accountable for breaking God's law, facing the condemnation of God and going to hell. Believers will be held accountable for the things they have done, and will be rewarded by God in heaven based on their actions as believers. The sign God gave to confirm this fact was the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.



The great spiritual song **Were you There?** Asks This Question: **Were you there when He rose up from the dead?** That is a thought-provoking question. Of course, it seems impossible. We, living 2,000 years later,

wish we had been there. To have witnessed the resurrection would have been the greatest privilege imaginable, to physically see the risen Christ and feel His embrace. But while we weren't there then, the fact is: **We Are There Now.** Believers claim Jesus literally rose from the dead physically. Without the risen Savior, there is no Christian faith. As the Apostle Paul said: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14). For every Christian, the resurrection is not only real, but relevant. The reality of the resurrection is central and critical to everything we believe. The evidence is compelling. Jesus rose. But beyond the fact that Jesus came out of the grave, you must answer the questions: Why does it matter? And what does this mean to me personally?

**"The Resurrection Matters Today Because We Can Live Forgiveness Lives"**

For one, the resurrection matters today because we can live forgiven lives. Every person lives with the consequences of sin. We all experience brokenness, shame and guilt because sin destroys everything and everyone in its path. Romans 6:23 says: **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."** The resurrection means I can be unchained from the bondage of sin and delivered from its power. The first words Jesus stated from the cross are words of forgiveness. **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"** (Luke 23:34). He lived, died and rose again so that we can be forgiven. His blood cleanses from sin and the risen Redeemer now guarantees that He has conquered sin, death and hell. Because of the resurrection, we know God has accepted the Savior's sacrifice and we are forgiven. If Jesus is still in the grave, we are still in our sins. But because He lives, we can live forgiven and free! A dead Savior can forgive no one. But our Lord did not die a meaningless death. The resurrection proves that He has the authority to forgive sin, and now we know we are forgiven. Every sin and all the shame are forever gone because they are buried in an empty tomb! Jesus carried our sins to the cross and then the grave. The burial of Jesus is a part of

the Gospel: **“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures”** (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

**“The Power Of The Resurrection”**



The resurrection also assures us that Jesus can transform our lives every day. We live empowered by the presence of Jesus to live changed lives. We not only are forgiven, but we are filled with the mighty power of God who raised Jesus from the dead. Paul called

this **“The Power Of The Resurrection.”** Jesus is no longer someone we know about, He is someone we know. **“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and may share His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death”** (Philippians 3:10). The most life-changing truth I have learned as a Christian is the **“Saving Life Of Christ.”** We are not only saved by His death but also by His life—meaning the risen Lord lives in us by His Holy Spirit. His divinity inhabits my humanity. I can live the Christian life not in my own strength, but in the strength of a risen Savior. We can plug into power every day.—Galatians 2:20 **“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”** Some question whether people can really change. We’re being told that people are stuck in a lifestyle and can never be different—that once a person’s personality and behavior are set, it is impossible to change. If I believed that, I would close my Bible and never mention Jesus again. But I know Jesus changes lives. He has changed mine and millions and millions of others through the generations. He transforms the hateful and the angry into loving, caring people. He changes the selfish into generous givers and the immoral into men and women of character. The resurrection raises us from the death of sin to a life of righteousness.

**“Sin And Death Have No Power Over Us”**

So the resurrection means we are forgiven and transformed by the power of the Living Lord. Sin and death have no power over us. We can overcome every temptation and endure every trial because of the resurrection. The risen Christ lives in us day by day, enabling us to walk in victorious faith and obedience.

This is not behavior modification. It is the living, transforming power of Jesus! We have a new life in Christ. The resurrection matters today because we now have a living hope. The Scripture says: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). The testimony of hundreds of millions of transformed lives through the centuries shows the power of the Resurrection. Many have been delivered from addictions. The destitute and despairing have found hope. Broken marriages have been restored. The most conclusive proof for the resurrection of Jesus Christ is that He is living within believers today in all of His resurrected life and transforming power. The Resurrection sets Christianity apart. No other religious leader has broken the power of death and conquered sin.

**“Believers Are United With Christ In Baptism”**



When we believe in Christ, we are united to Him in faith. Union with Christ means that when God looks at us, He does not see our unrighteousness, but the righteousness of Christ. It means that we have died with Him and will also live with Him (Romans 6:8). This union is made possible by the resurrection of Christ.

Similar to when a couple is united in marriage when one spouse’s belongings become the possession of both spouses, Christians are able to receive the righteousness of Christ because of their union with Him (1 Corinthians 1:30). We are now able to walk in newness of life because we are bound to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:4). This idea is shown in baptism, which is the powerful physical demonstration of the spiritual reality of our dying with Christ and being raised with Him.

**“The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ Proves The Gospel To Be True ”**

The fact that Jesus is alive today means that He is able to save today. This was a major argument of Paul’s in 1 Corinthians 15, where he defends the truth of the resurrection by explaining the whole Christian Gospel depends on it: “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain...and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:14; 17-19) Paul explains that the resurrection is not only a fundamental part of the Gospel but it is the glue that holds every part of the