

The Power of Jesus' Resurrection

Jesus' resurrection from the dead gives a new direction to our existence. The belief in his resurrection was the determining factor that transformed the lives of those disciples that a few days before had abandoned him at the expense of the Roman forces that would execute him. One of them denied him three times and another betrayed him. But Jesus' appearances to them made such an impact that, from being coward men, they became powerful witnesses to Jesus' life and transformative power. And their faith in Jesus' resurrection transformed not only their small Jewish world but also the rest of human history. The resurrection of Jesus was not just a moment in history for His disciples. This overwhelming event changed their lives, and their worldview.

The message of the gospel is inextricably connected to Jesus' victory over death. Such event unleashes all sort the benefits and blessings that we have received. The Bible reveals how the resurrection can transform our lives. As Paul described, this happens as we focus on Jesus, when we desire not just know about Him but to "know Him" and "the power of His resurrection," and when we believe that this power is real! (Philippians 3:10).

How can we experience the power of the resurrection in our lives? First, you have to remember and delight every day that you have been united to Jesus' death and resurrection by virtue of your baptism: "We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." Romans 6:4. So, baptism is not only a historical event that stays in our past with present effects. When we make the sign of the cross, we are reminded that in our baptism we were buried in Christ's death but also that we were raised with him to new life. This is the life of forgiveness, of victory and of service.

Secondly, when you believe that resurrection power is residing in you, you begin to activate it through your words. You speak faith-filled words to release the blessing to others. The power of God is in faith-filled words. If the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he will make alive your mortal flesh (Romans 8:11). He transforms our mortal reality so that we may become the ambassadors of his message (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Finally, the power of God is manifested where two or three gather in his name (Matthew 18:20). Jesus' resurrection created a new community, the church, his body and we are united to this new community that is called to proclaim his name. The importance of worshipping together and partaking of Holy Communion cannot be overstated. Christ is really present in and shows his power where two of three gather in his name and the more we commit ourselves to a local congregation the more we see our spiritual growth.

And although there many more ways in which we clearly see the power of the resurrection, the important thing that we need to keep in mind is that Jesus' resurrection is not only a past event that we can talk about but a powerful reality that we can experience day by day. In His name! Amen.

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