

HOPE.

The Resurrection is what powers Hope.

The Resurrection

¹ Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. ² Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it. ³ His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. ⁴ The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint. ⁵ Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. ⁷ And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.” ⁸ The women ran quickly from the tomb. They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel’s message. ⁹ And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there.” **Matthew 28:1-10 NLT**

The word power occurs fifty-seven times in the New Testament. It is used to describe the most powerful event that ever happened, an event that separated AD from BC — the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

¹⁸ I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the **confident hope** he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God’s power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms. **Ephesians 1:18-20 NLT**

Paul uses the Greek word for power, *Dunamis*, which is the root of our word dynamite. So, Paul is saying, “God wants to give you dynamite power that can change your life.” Yes, the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead two thousand years ago is available to us right now to transform the weaknesses in our lives into strengths.

WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS NO HOPE.

But BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS HOPE!

¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your faith is useless. ¹⁵ And we apostles would all be lying about God—for we have said that God raised Christ from the grave. But that can’t be true if there is no resurrection of the dead. ¹⁶ And if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! ¹⁹ And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. **1 Corinthians 15:14-19 NLT**

**WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS NO FORGIVENESS OF SIN.
But BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS FORGIVENESS OF SIN.**

¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. ¹⁸ In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! **1 Corinthians 15:17-18 NLT**

**WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS NO VICTORY.
But BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS VICTORY!**

^{54b} ...“Death is swallowed up in victory. ⁵⁵ O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. ⁵⁷ But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Corinthians 15:54b-57 NLT**

**WITHOUT THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS NO LIFE.
But BECAUSE OF THE RESURRECTION, THERE IS LIFE!**

⁸ Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹ so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! **Philippians 3:8-11 NLT**

- Once the Disciples had met the risen Christ, nothing could stop them from preaching their message. – not ridicule, torture, imprisonment, or martyrdom. The resurrection was the fundamental premise of what they believed and preached.
- Their hearts changed from focusing on death to focusing on life.

Which side of the tomb will you choose to focus on, death or life?

People are focused on death right now and what is dying or about to die. Things like jobs, finances, economy, vacations, senior year of grads etc. Now, through Christ there is a shift in focus. Easter is about a shift in focus. Death to life.

The resurrection forces this question; What side are you going to live on? The death side of the tomb (the empty side) or the life side of the tomb (fullness of life).

I choose life!

I want the power of the resurrection living inside me!