

Raised to Life

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Introduction



What is it to be a Christian?
What makes one a follower of Christ?



Paul wrote in Romans 10

9 “If you declare with your mouth, ‘**Jesus is Lord,**’ and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead,** you will be saved.

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”



Accordingly, there are two basic requirements:

(1) a Christian believes with all his being that **Jesus is Lord** and;

(2) a Christian believes that **God raised Jesus from the dead.**



The resurrection of Jesus is a fundamental doctrine of Christianity. It is so important that without it Christianity is a hoax.



In 1 Corinthians 15 the Apostle Paul
declares:



1 Corinthians 15

- 1 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.
- 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.



1 Corinthians 15

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of **first importance** : that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was buried, that **he was raised on the third day** according to the Scriptures.



The entirety of Christian faith is based on the fact that Jesus died and rose on the third day.



The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is what makes Christianity true and your faith secure.



We know that everyone in this room believes that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ died, was buried and raised to life on the third day; otherwise you wouldn't be here.



In Romans 5:10 we read, “For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be **saved through his life!**”



Proof of Resurrection



Paul claimed that there indeed was a resurrection, and he cited proofs of that in 1 Corinthians 15.



1 Corinthians 15

5 and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.



1 Corinthians 15

7 Then he appeared to **James**, then to **all the apostles**,

8 and last of all he appeared **to me also**, as to one abnormally born.



1 Corinthians 15

11 Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and **this is what you believed.**



Peter and the Disciples



The apostles were not an exceptionally courageous bunch of people. After the crucifixion of Jesus they went into hiding to ensure their personal safety.



Ordinarily, after the death of its leader, a movement eventually dies down. But the transformation of the disciples was remarkable.



They took on a kind of courage and boldness never before seen. The realization of a risen Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit vitalized their zeal for God.



They beheld the evidence of life and glory of
the resurrection!



That is why Peter witnessed saying in 2 Peter 1:16, “For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were **eyewitnesses of his majesty.**”



The resurrection was the foundation that convicted the original Apostles to the faith when the risen Christ appeared to them.



Luke 24

- 1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.
- 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,



Luke 24

3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.



Luke 24

5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?”

6 He is not here; **he has risen!** Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:



Luke 24

7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day **be raised again.**' ”

8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.



Luke 24

10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles.

11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense.



Luke 24

12 **Peter**, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, **he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves**, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.



Luke 24

14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;

16 but they were kept from recognizing him.



Luke 24

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast.

18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”



Luke 24

19 “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people.

20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;



Luke 24

21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning



Luke 24

23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”



Luke 24

25 He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”



Luke 24

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.



Luke 24

29 But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.



Luke 24

31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

32 They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”



Luke 24

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together

34 and saying, “It is true! **The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.**”



Luke 24

35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”



Luke 24

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”



Luke 24

39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.



Luke 24

41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?”

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,



Luke 24

43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”



Luke 24

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

46 He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and **rise from the dead on the third day,**



Luke 24

47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 You are **witnesses** of these things.

49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”



The Family



Jesus said, “A prophet has no honor in his own country.”



Familiarity has a way of distracting the obvious. The Galileans did not receive Jesus well because he was one of them.



Jesus, his four brothers and sisters grew up together under one roof. Yet not one of the four brothers followed Jesus in this 3 ½ years of ministry.



Their mother Mary and Aunt Elizabeth would have told them about the miraculous birth of Christ. Growing up with Jesus as their elder brother, the siblings would have known the extraordinary gifts, wisdom and power of Christ.



They would have heard Jesus' teachings, saw his numerous miracles and noticed his divine insights. Jesus would have told his siblings about his earthly mission, his passion and death; and eventually his resurrection from the dead.



He too would have preached to them about repentance, baptism, salvation and the Kingdom of God. Yet none of the brothers and sisters believed Jesus while He was alive.



John 7

2 But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,

3 Jesus' brothers said to him, "Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may **see the works you do.**"



John 7

4 No one who wants to become a **public figure acts in secret**. Since you are doing these things, **show yourself to the world.**”

5 For even his own **brothers did not believe in him.**



The brothers mocked Jesus because they did not believe him. Only after Jesus resurrected did His brothers believe in Him and started actively preaching the gospel.



James became a leader in the early church at Jerusalem. Both the writings of James and Jude formed part of the New Testament writings. Eventually, for the cause of Christ, James was stoned and died a martyr's death.



Confronted with the extraordinary evidence of the resurrection, and seeing that Jesus rose from death to life in glory changed their hostile minds to accept and believe that Jesus is the Christ.



The siblings were convicted to the truth after they witnessed the evidence of Jesus' resurrection.



Paul's Account



The Apostle Paul was a critical thinker. He was well-educated and was endowed with a brilliant mind.



He was zealous for the God of his fathers.
He looked upon the messianic sect with a
suspicious eye.



He heard Jesus preach and was not impressed. He saw Jesus perform miracles, yet he was not awed. He viewed Jesus as a blasphemer who claimed to be the son of the Living God.



When Paul heard the Christians talking and witnessing about the resurrected Christ, he squirmed in revulsion and disbelief.



Paul thought Jesus was a fake, and that the resurrection was nothing more than a hoax
- a great deception staged by the disciples.



He made it a personal crusade to suppress
and persecute unto death the believers of
the Messianic Way as recorded in Acts
22:1-5.



Acts 22

- 1 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”
- 2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.



Acts 22

Then Paul said:

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.



Acts 22

4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,



Acts 22

5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.



What could change the perspective of
someone with such a headstrong
commitment?



Paul took a 180 degree turn from being a persecutor of the faith to being one of its greatest proponents and defenders.



Paul, being a rational thinker, looked for evidence upon which to hang his belief.
Paul demanded evidence!



On the road to Damascus, Paul encountered
the risen Christ.



Confronted by the resurrected Christ, he was forced to believe in Christ and in the resurrection. That was why he taught and wrote extensively about the resurrection of the dead.



The Day of Pentecost



Today, we will present a proof; and this may be the most important proof about the resurrection of Jesus.



The greatest proof of Jesus' resurrection lies in the story of the church - the story of the people who believed that God raised Jesus from the dead.



The early Christians were convicted to the faith because they can't deny the proof of the resurrection that stared them in the face.



Consider the event of the day of Pentecost
in Acts 2.



Acts 2

23 This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

24 But **God raised him from the dead**, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.



Acts 2

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.



Acts 2

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”



Acts 2

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about **three thousand were added to their number that day.**



Most of them were the people who shouted
“crucify him, crucify him.” What convinced
these people to repent and be baptized?
It was the evidence of the resurrection of
Jesus that converted them!



- They demanded the death of Christ
- Saw Jesus pierced with a spear on the side
- Saw him die on the cross/tree
- Saw him embalmed according to the Jewish tradition
- Saw him put inside the tomb
- Knew He resurrected after 3 days as He himself had predicted



Even the open-minded Priests accepted the fact of Jesus' resurrection.



Acts 6:7

7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and **a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**



The proof was unassailable and beyond
refute. They demanded Jesus' death, saw
Jesus' crucified and with certainty knew
He was resurrected. All of them became
firsthand witnesses!



Gamaliel said it all when he declared in
Acts 5:34-39.



Acts 5

34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.



Acts 5

35 Then he addressed the Sanhedrin: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.



Acts 5

36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.



Acts 5

37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.



Acts 5

38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.



Acts 5

39 But if it is **from God**, you will **not be able to stop these men**; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”



As said earlier, after the death of its leader, a movement usually dies down. But the transformation of the disciples and the early converts were remarkable. They took on the kind of courage and boldness never seen before.



The realization of a risen Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit vitalize their zeal for God. They beheld the evidence of life and the glory of the resurrection!



Christian Hope



People wonder what will happen when they die. People are mystified by what lies beyond death. The only one who can tell us exactly what happens when we die is the **AUTHOR OF LIFE.**



Jesus preached that there is a resurrection
of the dead.



John 5

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.



John 5

28 “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice

29 and come out—those who have done what is good will **rise to live**, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.



John 6

38 “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but **raise them up at the last day.**



John 6

40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall **have eternal life**, and **I will raise him up at the last day.**"



When the Sadducees heard Jesus teaching about the resurrection, they came to Him with a question.



Mark 12

18 Then the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question.

19 “Teacher,” they said, “Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and raise up offspring for his brother.



Mark 12

20 Now there were seven brothers. The first one married and died without leaving any children.

21 The second one married the widow, but he also died, leaving no child. It was the same with the third.



Mark 12

22 In fact, none of the seven left any children. Last of all, the woman died too.

23 At the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?”



Mark 12

24 Jesus replied, “Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?

25 When the **dead rise**, they will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will **be like the angels in heaven.**



Mark 12

26 **Now about the dead rising**—have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the account of the burning bush, how God said to him, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’?

27 He is not the God of the dead, **but of the living.** You are badly mistaken!”



In this account, Jesus confirms that there is indeed a resurrection of the dead.



In John 11:25 Jesus categorically states,
“**I am the resurrection and the life.** The one
who believes in me will live, even though
they die.”



The Christian hope is in the resurrection.



Jesus staked His messiah-ship by saying that He would rise again on the third day.

With His resurrection, Jesus validated everything that he said. He proved to the world that there is a resurrection of the dead.



If the resurrection were not true, then
Christianity is a lie. This is exactly what
Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15



1 Corinthians 15

12 But if it is **preached that Christ has been raised from the dead**, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then **not even Christ has been raised**.



1 Corinthians 15

14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.



1 Corinthians 15

16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.



1 Corinthians 15

18 Then those also who have **fallen asleep in Christ are lost.**

19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most **to be pitied.**



1 Corinthians 15

20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.



The Resurrection

This is our hope. You will ask: how can this be? Here is the explanation of Paul.



1 Corinthians 15

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?”

36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.



1 Corinthians 15

37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.



1 Corinthians 15

39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another.

40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another.



1 Corinthians 15

41 The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is **raised imperishable**;



1 Corinthians 15

43 it is sown in dishonor, it is **raised in glory**;
it is sown in weakness, it is **raised in
power**;

44 it is sown a natural body, it is **raised a
spiritual body**. If there is a natural body,
there is also a spiritual body.



1 Corinthians 15

45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being” ; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.

46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.



1 Corinthians 15

47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven.

48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven.



1 Corinthians 15

49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.



1 Corinthians 15

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—

52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the **dead will be raised imperishable**, and we will be changed.



1 Corinthians 15

53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

54 When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”



1 Corinthians 15

55 “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.



1 Corinthians 15

57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.



Summation



The Lord has risen.



Jesus is the evidence and proof of the resurrection of the dead. There were numerous independent recorded eye-witness accounts of the fact.



Jesus is the first to be resurrected into immortality. He is the archetype, the prototype, the prime example, the exemplary model, the classic example, the first of its kind, the original. In Colossians Jesus is referenced as the firstborn from the dead.



Colossians 1:18

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the **firstborn from among the dead**, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.



Now, we can be 1000% sure that there is a
resurrection of the dead!



Friends, let us hold firmly to the faith as we look forward and await the future resurrection with hope and confidence. Once we have been baptized, we profess our allegiance to God and hope in the promised resurrection.



In fact, baptism is the symbol of resurrection to a new life. It is a symbolic manifestation of our share and participation in our future resurrection.



Romans 6

3 “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?



Romans 6

4 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

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be **united with him in a resurrection like his.**”



Resurrection and life after death is the central theme of the Gospel as we go out and preach the Kingdom of God. The knowledge and certainty of a glorious future should be good enough to keep us faithful to God.



Finally, again in Romans 10

9 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”



END

