



World Christian Fellowship

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Easter

The triumph of Resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10, *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. ²And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. ³His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. ⁴And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. ⁷And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you." ⁸So they went out quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to bring His disciples word.*

⁹And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.”

Introduction:

The significance of Easter:

The cornerstone of the Christian faith. This is the day that changed the world forever.

-Hope being restored.

Overcoming a seemingly impossible challenge.

In **2010**, a devastating earthquake struck **Haiti**, leaving thousands dead and many more injured or displaced. Amidst the chaos, a 16-year-old girl named **Fabienne Jean** was trapped beneath the rubble for an unimaginable 15 days. Her situation seemed hopeless—no food, no water, and barely clinging to life. Rescuers had almost given up finding survivors when, miraculously, Fabienne was discovered and pulled from the wreckage alive.

Her survival brought hope not just to her family but to an entire nation grieving such enormous loss. **Fabienne's** story became a symbol of resilience and the power of hope, even in the darkest times. While her recovery was challenging, her determination to rebuild her life inspired many.

This story demonstrates that hope can shine through even in dire circumstances, reminding us that we serve a God who brings life and light out of seemingly impossible situations.

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for our lives today? How does it transform our pain, fear, and uncertainty into hope and victory?

1. The Reality of the Resurrection

Eyewitness Accounts of Jesus' Resurrection

a) The Women at the Tomb (Matthew 28:1-10, Mark 16:1-8, Luke 24:1-12, John 20:1-18)

The first eyewitnesses to the resurrection were women, including Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome. Early on Sunday morning, they went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices.

Instead of finding His body, they encountered an angel who proclaimed, "*He is not here; He has risen!*" (**Matthew 28:6**).

Mary Magdalene later had a personal encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden.

Initially mistaking Him for the gardener, she recognized Him when He called her by name. Her witness is profound, as she became the first to share the news of the resurrection.

b) The Disciples (Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-29)

The resurrected Jesus appeared to His disciples' multiple times. One notable encounter occurred in a locked room where Jesus suddenly stood among them, saying, "Peace be with you." They saw His wounds and were filled with joy.

Thomas, who was absent during the first appearance, doubted the resurrection until Jesus appeared again and invited him to touch His wounds. Thomas' declaration, "*My Lord and my God!*" (**John 20:28**), remains a powerful testimony of faith.

c) The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Two disciples were walking to Emmaus, discussing the events of Jesus' death and rumoured resurrection.

Jesus joined them, though they didn't initially recognize Him. As He explained the Scriptures, their hearts burned with understanding. They finally recognized Him when He broke bread with them.

d) The Appearance to Over 500 People (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

Paul mentions that Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at once, many of whom were still alive at the time Paul was writing.

This mass eyewitness testimony adds credibility to the resurrection event and shows its impact beyond the immediate circle of disciples.

e) The Transformation of Peter and Paul

Peter, who had denied Jesus three times, encountered the risen Christ and was restored. He became a bold preacher of the resurrection.

Paul, who had been a persecutor of Christians, met the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus. This encounter completely transformed his life and mission, leading him to spread the gospel to the Gentiles.

These eyewitness accounts highlight the transformational power of Jesus' resurrection.

The testimony of the women, disciples, and others not only provide evidence of this miraculous event but also demonstrate how it changed lives forever.

The resurrection invites all of us to encounter the risen Christ and live in the hope and victory He offers.

f) God's Faithfulness.

Jesus fulfilled His promise of rising on the third day, demonstrating that God always keeps His word.

Matthew 28:5-6, *But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Acts 2:32, *This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.*

The resurrection turned frightened followers into bold witnesses who changed the world.

Acts 4:13, *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained*

men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 5:29-32, *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. ³² And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

2. The Power of the Resurrection.

a) Victory Over Death:

Jesus' resurrection broke the chains of sin and death, offering eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Jesus' resurrection is the ultimate victory over death, bringing hope and eternal life to believers. Here are key scripture references that affirm this truth:

1 Corinthians 15:54-57, *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O Death, where is your sting? O*

Hades, where is your victory?”⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:9, *knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.*

John 11:25-26, *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

Hebrews 2:14-15, *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

Through Jesus’ resurrection, death no longer holds power over those who believe in Him.

His victory is our victory, offering eternal life.

b) Hope in Difficult Times.

Because Jesus lives, we have hope. Even in the face of suffering, loss, or uncertainty.

The resurrection of Jesus is a profound source of hope that continues to uplift people in the midst of life's struggles.

c) Comfort in Grief.

The resurrection assures us that death is not the end. Many grieving individuals find hope in the promise of eternal life and reunion with loved ones.

For instance, at funerals or during seasons of loss, families often draw strength from the knowledge that Jesus' victory over the grave offers them the assurance of life beyond this world.

d) Strength in Suffering.

For Christians enduring persecution, the resurrection is a reminder that God's power overcomes suffering and injustice. Take the story of believers in countries where practicing their faith is dangerous.

They cling to the hope of the resurrection, knowing that no matter what trials they face, their future is secure in Christ.

e) Restoration After Failure.

The resurrection symbolizes new beginnings. Just as Peter, who denied Jesus three times, was restored by the risen Christ,

people who've experienced failure often find hope in the grace of God.

Many recovering from addiction, past mistakes, or broken relationships see the resurrection as a reminder that they can have a fresh start.

f) Encouragement in Uncertainty

In times of uncertainty, like financial struggles, illness, or global crises, the resurrection provides an anchor. It reassures people that no situation is too hopeless for God to redeem.

For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many found peace in the hope that the God who raised Jesus from the dead could bring new life and purpose out of the chaos.

g) Hope for Justice

The resurrection assures believers that evil will not have the final word. Activists and communities fighting for justice often take comfort in knowing that Jesus conquered sin and death, and that His resurrection points to a future where all wrongs will be made right.

These examples show that the resurrection isn't just a historical event—it's a present reality that gives hope in all of life's challenges.

h) Transformational Grace:

The resurrection power doesn't just save—it transforms lives. Discuss how encountering the risen Christ brings forgiveness, healing, and restoration.

3. The Invitation of the Resurrection

A Gift for All:

Jesus' resurrection is not just a historical event; it's an invitation to a personal relationship with Him.

Responding to the Call:

Reflect on your response to the risen Saviour.
Are we living in the freedom and joy He offers?

Living as Resurrection People:

Live with boldness, hope, and a commitment to sharing the good news.

Application:

Reflect on the Cross:

Pause and consider the sacrifice Jesus made and the love He displayed.

Celebrate the Victory:

Rejoice in the truth that Jesus is alive, and His victory is ours.

Call to Action:

Surrender their lives to Christ, accept His grace, and walk in the power of His resurrection.

Conclusion:

The resurrection is real, powerful, and personal.
He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Prayer of gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice, celebration of His victory, and a heartfelt request for lives to be transformed by the resurrection.