

DAY 4 — SUNDAY, 5 APRIL 2026

SESSION 8: RISING STRONG

TIME: 9:00 AM– 11:00 AM



Risen With Christ, Rising Strong

Easter is not just a story.

It is the **turning point of history**, the **victory of God**; and the **foundation of our hope**.

The resurrection is not only what Christ did but it is what Christ does in us.

Because Christ rose, we rise.

Because Christ lives, we live strong.

Because Christ conquered, we overcome.

1. The resurrection breaks every limit.

Luke 24:1-12

The women came expecting a closed tomb.

They found an open one.

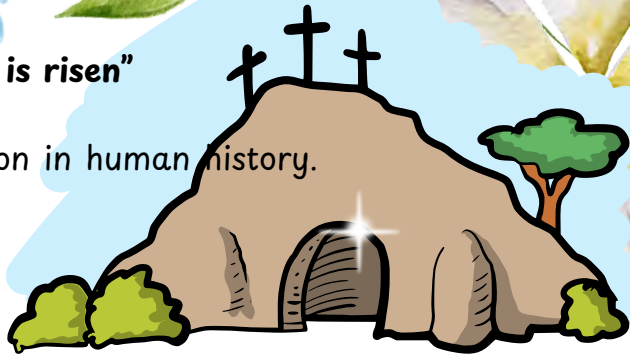
A. “Why do you seek the living among the dead”

The angel confronts their expectation.

Resurrection always challenges old thinking.

B. "He is not here; He is risen"

The greatest declaration in human history.
Death is defeated.
Hell is silenced.
Hope is alive.



He
is
Risen

B. The stone was rolled away.

Not so Jesus could get out but so we could see in.

C. The disciples' unbelief turned into unstoppable faith.

Resurrection transforms doubters into witnesses.

- God rolls away stones of fear, shame, and impossibility.
- What looked dead is rising again.
- Resurrection is God's final word over your life.

The Raising of Lazarus (John 11)

Luke 24:5-6

- **The Limit:** Lazarus had been dead for four days. In that culture, four days meant the soul had left and decay had fully set in. This was the absolute "limit" of human hope. Even his sisters, Mary and Martha, said, "If only you had been here sooner..."

- **The Resurrection Power:** Jesus didn't just offer sympathy; He commanded the limit to break. By shouting "Lazarus, come out!", He proved that His voice carries authority even into the grave.



Lazarus, Come Out!

- **The Connection:** Just as the women at the tomb in Luke 24 were reminded of what Jesus said while He was still in Galilee, the resurrection of Lazarus was a "preview" that with God, even the finality of death is just a temporary pause. It breaks the limit of "too late."

The Resurrection of a Ruined Life (Jim Stovall)

- **The Limit:** Jim Stovall was a young man with a dream of becoming a professional football player. However, in his 20s, he was diagnosed with a rare condition that caused him to go completely blind. His world went dark, and his "limits" were suddenly everywhere.
- **The "Resurrection" Moment:** Instead of accepting that his life was "dead," Jim leaned into his faith and the idea that God creates new life from ashes. He decided that blindness would not be his tomb, but his cocoon.

- **The Result:** Jim went on to become an Olympic weightlifter, an investment broker, and the founder of the Narrative Television Network. He also wrote the bestseller *The Ultimate Gift*.



- **The Connection:** To the world, a blind man becoming a media mogul seems like "nonsense" (just as the disciples thought the women's news was nonsense). But the power of the resurrection breaks the limit of **disability and despair**, proving that your vision doesn't depend on your eyes, but on your spirit.

2. The resurrection gives us a new life.

Romans 6:4-11, Paul moves from the event of resurrection to the experience of resurrection.

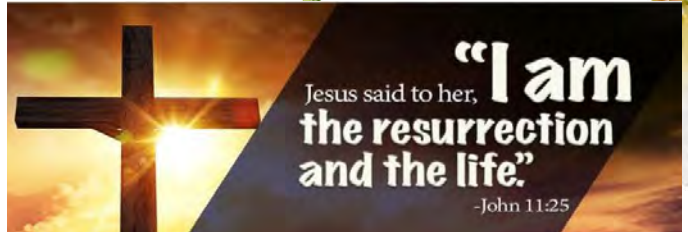
A. "We were buried with Him so we may walk in newness of life"

Resurrection is not just a future promise—It is a present power.

B. "Our old self was crucified with Him"

The resurrection breaks the power of:

- sin
- addiction
- shame
- condemnation
- spiritual death



C. "Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive to God"

This is a mindset shift.

Resurrection life begins in the heart and mind.

D. "If we died with Christ, we believe we will also rise with Him"

We rise with Christ:

- in identity
- in purpose
- in strength
- in victory



Application:

- You are not who you used to be.
- You are not bound by what bound you.
- You are alive with resurrection power.

The Transformation of Saul to Paul

- **The Old Life:** Saul was a man defined by religious rage.

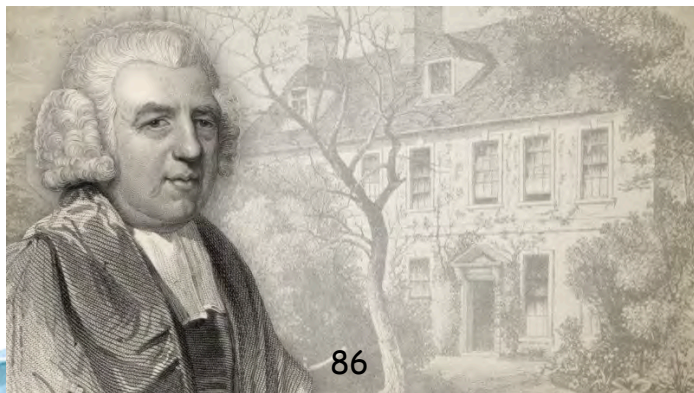
He was "breathing out murderous threats" and his identity was rooted in the destruction of others. He was spiritually dead, even while he was physically alive.

- **The New Life:** On the road to Damascus, Saul had a "death and resurrection" encounter. He went blind (the burial of his old sight) and then regained his sight through the Holy Spirit (the resurrection).
- **The Result:** The man who hunted Christians became the man who died for the Gospel. He didn't just "improve" his behaviour; he became a "new creation."
- **The Connection:** Paul lived out Romans 6:11: he considered himself "dead to sin but alive to God." His new life was so different from his old one that he even changed his name to reflect his new identity.

John Newton

The "Old Self" (Buried)

John Newton was a man whose "old self" was defined by cruelty and rebellion. In the mid-1700s, he was a slave trader—a man who profited from the kidnapping



and suffering of others. He was known for being so foul-mouthed and profane that even other sailors were shocked by him. He was a man deeply "enslaved to sin" (v. 6), living a life that was spiritually dead.

The "Resurrection" Moment (New Life)

In 1748, during a violent storm at sea (similar to our previous "Storm" pillars), Newton's ship was nearly destroyed. In a moment of sheer desperation, he cried out to God for mercy. He survived, but that was only the beginning of his "rising. Over the next few years, as he studied the scriptures, he realized he could no longer live his old life. He didn't just stop slave trading; he became a "new creation."

The Result

Newton walked away from the slave trade completely and became a minister. He became a key ally to William Wilberforce in the fight to abolish the slave trade in England. He lived the rest of his life "alive to God," famously writing the hymn **"Amazing Grace."**

"Amazing grace! How sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me! / I once was lost, but now am found; / Was blind, but now I see."





The Connection to Romans 6

John Newton is the perfect example of Romans 6 because he didn't just "improve" himself. The slave trader "died" (was buried with Christ), and the hymn-writer/abolitionist "rose" (walked in newness of life). He proved that no matter how deep the roots of sin are, the resurrection power of Christ can pull them up and plant something entirely new.

3. The Risen Christ stands with US.

Revelation 1:12-18

John sees the risen Jesus—not the crucified Lamb, but the conquering King.

A. Jesus stands among the lampstands.

He is not distant.

He is present with His church.

B. His eyes like fire — He sees everything clearly

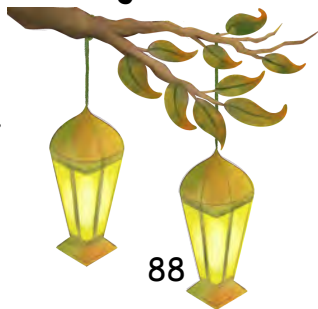
He sees your pain, your storm, your struggle— And He stands with authority.

C. His voice like many waters — His word is final.

Not fear.

Not failure.

Not the enemy.



His voice defines your future.

D. “Do not be afraid... I am the First and the Last”

Resurrection removes fear.

Jesus holds time, eternity, and your destiny.

E. “I am He who lives... I have the keys of death and Hades”

Keys represent authority.

Jesus holds the keys to:

- your future
- your freedom
- your breakthrough
- your victory



Application:

- You are not rising alone.
- The risen Christ stands with you.
- His authority is your confidence.

The Seven Churches in the Fire

Revelation 1:12-13

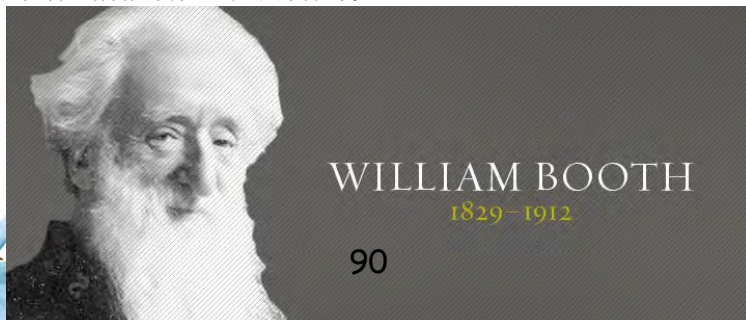
The Context: The Apostle John was exiled on the island of Patmos. The early church was facing brutal Roman persecution. They felt alone, small, and defeated.

- **The "With Us" Moment:** Jesus appears, but not from a distance. He is standing **"among the lampstands."** The lampstands represent the churches.
- **The Connection:** This teaches us that Christ is not a distant CEO watching from heaven; He is physically "in the room" with His people during their darkest trials. He is "the First and the Last," meaning He was there when your trial started, and He will be there to see it end.
 - **The Result:** John, who was terrified, was told, "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last." The presence of the Risen Christ turned John's exile into a vision of victory.

The "Heavenly Vision" of William Booth **Revelation 1:16-17**

- **The Context:** William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army, lived in 19th-century London. He saw the "storm" of poverty, addiction, and despair in the slums. Most people stayed away, but Booth felt the Risen Christ was standing right in the middle of that misery.

The "With Us" Moment: Booth believed that because Jesus has "the keys of death and Hades" (v. 18), no person was too "dead" to be raised. He acted as if the Risen Christ was standing beside him in every soup kitchen and street corner.



- **The Connection:** When Booth was criticized by religious leaders for his "undignified" methods, he remained unshakable. He knew that the One with "eyes like blazing fire" (v. 14) saw his heart.
- **The Result:** Because Booth "stood" with the Risen Christ among the poor, his movement grew into a global force for good that has helped millions.

He proved that when the Risen Christ stands with you, you can face the "hell" of this world with total confidence.

Rising Strong.

A. Three Resurrection Truths to Rise Strong

1. The tomb is empty — nothing is impossible
2. Sin is broken — I am free to live new.
3. Christ is alive — I rise with Him.



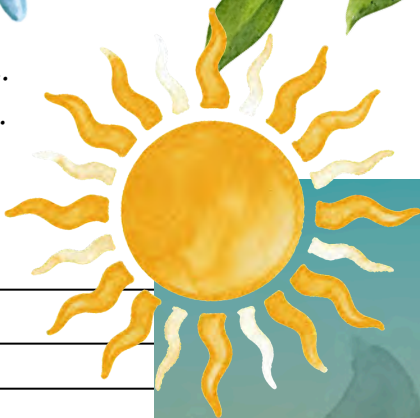
B. Three Areas God Wants to Raise Up

- Faith — where doubt has been heavy
- Hope — where disappointment has lingered
- Strength — where weariness has settled

C. Prayer of Resurrection Strength

Invite the congregation to stand and declare:

- I rise above fear.
- I rise above shame.
- I rise above defeat.
- I rise with Christ.
- I rise strong.



**BECAUSE
HE LIVES**

I can face tomorrow

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D.Commissioning.

- Go in resurrection power.
- Go in resurrection joy.
- Go in resurrection victory.
- Go and rise strong in Christ.

Conclusion.

Risen With Christ, Rising Strong

Easter is not the end of the story— It is the beginning of a new life.

Because He rose,

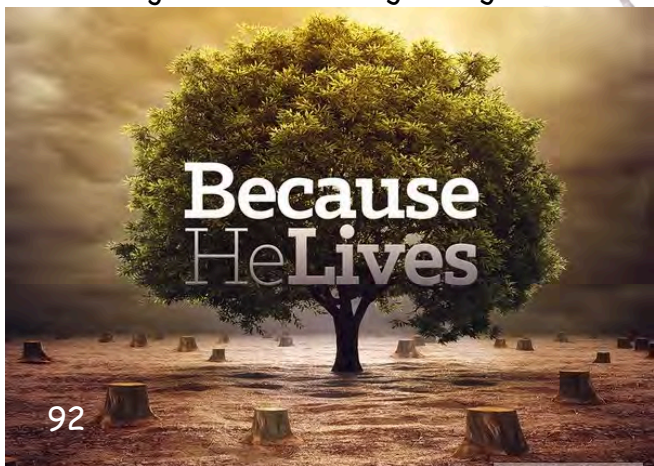
you can rise.

Because He lives,

you can live strong.

Because He conquered,

you can overcome.



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Easter is not the end of the story— It is the beginning of a new life.

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Goals

To Do
