

LIVING OUT HIS RESURRECTION

1 Peter 3:19–21

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Peter mentions 3 events in this passage: 1) Jesus preaching to the spirits in prison, 2) Noah preparing the Ark and 3) the practice of baptism. All three events reveal that *without the resurrection* there is no salvation! Think about it...

- The spirits that were in prison would not have been “saved” had Jesus not been raised from the dead! The Bible says, “When He [Jesus] ASCENDED UP, He led captivity captive.”
- Noah and his family would not have been “saved” had the ark not been RAISED UP above the waters.
- In baptism, salvation is not represented when the candidate goes down in the water. It’s represented when they COME UP out of the water!

All three cases teach us that salvation is grounded in the resurrection. Without the resurrection none of these things would work. In fact, NOTHING in our Christian life works apart from the resurrection!

1 Corinthians 15:13–14

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Notice, without the resurrection preaching would be in vain. In other words, there would be no ‘good news’ (no victory of death) to proclaim! Also, without the resurrection faith would be in vain. Meaning, our faith would be based on *theories* rather than a LIVING REALITY!

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

So, maybe the reason we’re doubting and losing hope is because we’re not giving enough attention to the resurrection. It seems, we’re viewing the resurrection as an EVENT, rather than a PRINCIPLE that touches every part of our life!

How do we stop this? We stop this by seeing the resurrection as a *pattern*.

THE RESURRECTION IS A **PATTERN**

Philippians 3:10

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

When Paul says, “That I might *know* him,” he’s not talking about LEARNING MORE about His resurrection. Paul’s talking about EXPERIENCING His resurrection!

Philippians 3:10 New English Translation

10 My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection...

Paul wanted to experience everything Christ experienced—from His suffering to His RESURRECTION! Many want to know His resurrection without knowing His suffering. Others make the mistake of knowing Him in suffering, but failing to know (or experience) Him in resurrection!

John 11:23–25

23 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

The resurrection is not just an event, it’s *life* that you can experience NOW!

We must also learn to view the resurrection as a *pathway*.

THE RESURRECTION IS A **PATHWAY**

Romans 1:4

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Notice, Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God *with power*...by the resurrection from the dead.” Not that Jesus was not the Son of God BEFORE the resurrection. However, it was THROUGH the resurrection that He was declared to be the Son of God WITH POWER. In other words, after the resurrection ALL power in heaven and on earth was given to Him.

Matthew 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

If you remember, the devil tried to give Jesus power (authority) BEFORE He went to the cross. Jesus, of course, declined this offer and went to the cross!

Philippians 2:8–9

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

Thus, the resurrection is a reminder that death is the path to life, and suffering is the path to glory and honor.

Finally, we must see the resurrection as a reason to praise.

THE RESURRECTION IS A REASON TO **PRAISE**

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Notice, Peter begins this verse with a PRAISE. And what is he praising God for? He's praising God for a HOPE that's rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

If you're gonna be excited about death, then we should be excited about what comes after death—life! Paul basically makes the same argument, only from the opposite side.

Romans 5:1–3

¹ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ² By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

Paul is saying, “If you're going to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, then why not rejoice in what brings you to the hope/glory—tribulation and suffering!” Why the different approaches?

Because Paul is writing to a group that's just beginning to experience persecution. If you're in that camp, you need to be reminded that suffering comes before glory. Peter, on the other hand, is writing to a group that's been experiencing suffering for some time. If you're in that camp, you need to be reminded that there's glory after death! In other words, it's not all for nothing. Your suffering is working for you a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory!