

“Resurrected Grace”

(Easter Sunday / A Product of Grace 5 of 5)

Time for a new start and a new attitude about life.

God’s grace gives us what we don’t deserve, and many of us don’t deserve forgiveness or a new start. Many of us don’t deserve hope, but the resurrection brings us just that.

For many Christians, God’s grace has been dead in their lives for a long time. Today let’s resurrect that grace.

Here are three areas that God’s grace can be resurrected in your life:

Resurrected Faith // Resurrected Family // Resurrected Focus

1. **RESURRECTED FAITH (JOHN 20:8,31)**

A. The resurrection of Jesus gives us compelling reason to believe.

- i. *1 Corinthians 15:3–8*³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.
- ii. James the brother of Jesus didn’t believe until after the resurrection. He then died for that belief: “Now most of us have brothers. What would it take to convince you that your brother is the Lord, such that you would be ready to die for that belief? Can there be any doubt that this remarkable transformation in Jesus’ younger brother took place because, in Paul’s words, ‘then he appeared to James’?” – W.L. Craig
- iii. N. T. Wright, an eminent British scholar, concludes, “that is why, as a historian, I cannot explain the rise of early Christianity unless Jesus rose again, leaving an empty tomb behind him.”

B. But we must each make the decision for ourselves.

- i. “In short, I didn’t become a Christian because God promised I would have an even happier life than I had as an atheist. He never promised any such thing. Indeed, following him would inevitably bring divine demotions in the eyes of the world. Rather, I became a

Christian because the evidence was so compelling that Jesus really is the one-and-only Son of God who proved his divinity by rising from the dead. That meant following him was the most rational and logical step I could possibly take” – Lee Strobel

- ii. “If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn’t rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.”— Timothy Keller, *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism*
- iii. *John 11:25–26* ²⁵ *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”*

2. RESURRECTED FAMILY (JOHN 20:17)

A. We now belong to a family. Our brothers and sisters. Our God. Our Father.

- i. *1 Peter 1:3–4* ³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,*
- ii. “We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which he paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil, in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in his tomb. A new status is ours through his resurrection.” – Sinclair B. Ferguson
- iii. “Make yourself at home, because you are home.” – Pete, *Instant Family*
- iv. *Ephesians 1:5–6 (NLT)* ⁵ *God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son.*

3. RESURRECTED FOCUS (JOHN 20:19-23)

A. Focus on His Peace for our problems (Verse 19,21a)

- i. *John 16:33* ³³ *I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*
- ii. *John 14:27* ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

- iii. “Real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us.” - Warren Wiersbe
- iv. *Psalm 23:4*⁴ *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*

B. Focus on His Spirit for our Sending (Verses 21b-22)

- i. *Acts 1:8*⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

C. Focus on His Forgiveness for our witness (Verse 23)

- i. *1 John 1:9*⁹ *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- ii. *1 John 5:11*¹¹ *And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*

“We live and die; Christ died and lived” – John Stott

“The best news the world has ever had came from a graveyard near Jerusalem.” – Unknown