

“Because He Lives”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're invited to explore the profound reality of 'resurrection now.' Drawing from Luke 24, we witness Jesus' post-resurrection appearances and how they challenge us to live in a new realm of spiritual power. The key lesson is that resurrection isn't just a past or future event, but a present reality we can access daily. We're encouraged to look beyond our natural circumstances, to 'set our minds on things above,' and to give God our 'comfort food' - those things we use to navigate difficult times. This message urges us to shift our perspective, speech, and walk, reminding us that in our weakest moments, we have the opportunity to tap into God's supernatural strength. It's a call to move from merely surviving to thriving in the power of Christ's resurrection, right here, right now.

Main Points – Because He Lives

Title: Accessing Resurrection Power in the Present

Sermon Summary: This Resurrection Sunday sermon explores the concept of resurrection power not just as a past or future event, but as a present reality accessible to believers. Pastor Rob emphasizes that Jesus' resurrection provides a gateway to supernatural living in the here and now, challenging Christians to shift their perspective, speech, and actions to align with this truth. He encourages the congregation to move beyond comfort zones and natural limitations, tapping into God's supernatural provision and power in everyday life.

Key Points:

- Jesus' resurrection is not just a historical event but a present reality
- Believers can access resurrection power in their daily lives
- Shifting perspective from natural to spiritual eyes is crucial
- Our speech and actions should reflect our belief in resurrection power
- God often uses challenging circumstances to teach us to rely on supernatural provision
- Comfort and complacency can hinder our access to God's power
- Surrendering our inadequacies to God allows Him to demonstrate His sufficiency

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 24:14-49 (The Road to Emmaus and Jesus' appearance to the disciples)

Stories:

- The disciples on the road to Emmaus encountering the risen Jesus

- Elijah being provided for by ravens and then by the widow of Zarephath
- Pastor Rob's personal anecdote about searching for coffee on Easter morning
- John Maxwell's story about a congregant struggling with tithing after becoming wealthy

Small Group Study Guide – Because He Lives

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus' resurrection is not just a past or future event but has power for our lives today.
2. We often face challenges that require us to access supernatural resources.
3. Our perspective, speech, and direction can change when we encounter the resurrected Christ.
4. God invites us to give Him our inadequacies so He can demonstrate His power.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions three groups of people: those who haven't accepted Christ, those who have but are discouraged, and those going through the motions. Which group do you most relate to right now? Why?
2. Pastor Rob talks about "comfort food" as things we use to cope with disappointments. What are some "comfort foods" in your life that you might need to surrender to God?
3. How does the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath challenge your understanding of God's provision?
4. Pastor Rob says, "left to ourselves, if everything was comfortable, we wouldn't press into that other realm." Do you agree? How have challenges in your life pushed you closer to God?
5. Reflect on Romans 8:31-39. How does this passage encourage you in facing life's difficulties?

Practical Applications:

1. Practice Perspective Shifting: This week, when facing a challenge, consciously choose to "look not at the things which are seen" but at unseen spiritual realities. Journal about how this changes your approach.
2. Speech Audit: Pay attention to your speech this week. Are you speaking from discouragement or faith? Make an effort to align your words with the truth of God's promises.
3. Comfort Food Fast: Identify one "comfort food" (metaphorical or literal) that you tend to turn to instead of God. Choose to fast from it for a set period, replacing it with prayer or Bible study.

4. Resurrection Testimonies: Share with the group next week about a time you experienced God's "resurrection power" in a practical situation in your life.

5. Daily Bread Prayer: Each morning this week, pray for your "daily bread," focusing on trusting God for that day's needs rather than anxiously planning for the future.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the power of your resurrection available to us today. Help us to look beyond our natural circumstances and access the supernatural resources you provide. Give us the courage to surrender our "comfort foods" and trust in your provision. May we walk in the reality of your resurrection power this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Because He Lives

How can we cultivate spiritual eyes to see beyond our natural circumstances, as Jesus encouraged the disciples on the road to Emmaus?

In what ways might we be 'eating comfort food' spiritually instead of fully trusting in God's provision and power?

How does the concept of 'resurrection now' challenge our understanding of living out our faith in daily life?

What are some practical ways we can shift our perspective, speech, and walk to align more closely with God's truth and power?

How might viewing our challenges as opportunities to access God's supernatural realm change our approach to difficulties?

In what areas of your life do you need to 'give God something to work with' in order to experience His miraculous provision?

How can we balance planning for the future with living in the present moment, trusting God for our daily needs?

What does it mean to be 'more than conquerors' in the midst of tribulation, distress, and other hardships?

How can we cultivate a deeper hunger for God's presence and power, like the disciples who asked Jesus to stay with them?

In what ways might God be inviting you to move from 'death to life' in your thinking and daily experiences?

Scriptures – Because He Lives

Here are the [scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon](#), along with some relevant verses for the main themes discussed:

Explicitly Mentioned:

1. Luke 24:14-43 (This passage is the main focus of the sermon)
2. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
3. Romans 8:5-6
4. Romans 8:31-39
5. 1 Kings 17:12-16 (Story of Elijah and the widow at Zarephath)

Alluded to:

1. Genesis 3:8-11 (God walking with Adam and Eve in the garden)
2. Matthew 14:15-21 (Feeding of the 5000)
3. 2 Kings 6:15-17 (Elisha and his servant seeing chariots of fire)
4. Matthew 6:33 ("Seek first the kingdom of God")
5. Malachi 3:10 ("Prove me now herewith")
6. 2 Corinthians 12:10 ("When I am weak, then I am strong")

Relevant verses for main themes:

1. John 11:25 - "I am the resurrection and the life"
2. Ephesians 1:19-20 - Power of the resurrection working in believers
3. Philippians 3:10 - Knowing the power of Christ's resurrection
4. 1 Peter 1:3 - Born again to a living hope through the resurrection
5. Romans 6:4 - Walking in newness of life through Christ's resurrection
6. Colossians 3:1-2 - Setting minds on things above
7. Hebrews 11:1 - Faith as the substance of things hoped for
8. James 1:2-4 - Trials producing steadfastness
9. 2 Corinthians 5:7 - Walking by faith, not by sight

Devotional – Because He Lives

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:

Day 1: Encountering the Risen Christ

Reading: [Luke 24:13-35](#)

Devotional: Just as Jesus appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, He desires to reveal Himself to us in our everyday lives. Often, we're so focused on our disappointments and struggles that we fail to recognize His presence. Today, reflect on times when you may have missed Jesus walking alongside you. Ask God to open your spiritual eyes to see Him in unexpected places and conversations. How might your perspective change if you truly believed Christ was with you in every situation?

Day 2: From Death to Life

Reading: [Romans 8:5-11](#)

Devotional: The resurrection power of Christ isn't just for the future - it's available to us now. Paul teaches that setting our minds on the Spirit brings life and peace. Consider areas in your life where you've been operating from a "flesh" mindset, focused on fear, doubt, or self-reliance. How can you intentionally shift your thinking to align with the Spirit today? Ask God to help you tap into His resurrection power, bringing new life to dead situations and renewing your mind with His truth.

Day 3: Comfort in Suffering

Reading: [2 Corinthians 4:7-18](#)

Devotional: Our afflictions and weaknesses are not obstacles to experiencing God's power - they're opportunities. Paul describes how our struggles allow Christ's life to be revealed in us. Reflect on a current difficulty you're facing. Instead of asking God to remove it, ask Him to show you how He wants to demonstrate His strength through your weakness. How might this situation be an avenue for God's glory to shine through you to others?

Day 4: Unshakeable Hope

Reading: [Romans 8:31-39](#)

Devotional: Nothing can separate us from God's love - not tribulation, distress, persecution, or any other hardship. This promise isn't just about feeling loved; it's about being more than conquerors through Christ. Consider a circumstance where you feel defeated or overwhelmed. How does knowing you're inseparably united with Christ's love change your perspective? Ask God to anchor your hope in His unfailing love, enabling you to face any challenge with confidence.

Day 5: Living in Resurrection Reality

Reading: [Ephesians 1:15-23](#)

Devotional: The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in believers. Yet often, we live far below this incredible potential. Paul prays for the Ephesians to have the

eyes of their hearts enlightened to know this hope and power. Today, echo Paul's prayer for yourself. Ask God to give you a fresh revelation of the resurrection power available to you. How might your daily life look different if you truly lived from this place of spiritual authority and strength? Commit to taking one step of faith today that requires you to rely on Christ's power within you.