

Now is The Time: Resurrection Power of the Gospel

Thomas had questions. He had missed the “resurrection reveal” when Jesus suddenly appeared to the other disciples behind a locked door. He didn’t experience going from fear to great joy at seeing the resurrected Lord.

He didn’t hear Jesus say, “Peace be with you” and then feel the power of the Spirit when Jesus breathed on the other disciples. Their story was not his story.

Thomas needed his own encounter. He declared he would not believe “unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side” (John 20:25).

And Jesus provided for Thomas in the most gracious, non-condemning way. A week later, in the same scenario with locked doors, Jesus came. He again declared, “Peace be with you!” And He invited Thomas to touch and feel his scars—to take in the full reality of His resurrection. Thomas breathlessly exclaimed, “My Lord and my God!” (vs. 28).

Let’s pray that believers are again breathlessly revived to the joyous resurrection of Jesus and the power of the gospel. Now is the time for more stories of transformed lives!

1 Praise God that He will “keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in [Him].” During this Holy Week, pray for opportunities to share the peace of Christ with others (Isaiah 26:3).

2 Jesus prepared the disciples for His coming death by telling them that “in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” Pray for renewal in your hope and confidence in Jesus as the Overcomer (John 16:33).

3 On this Good Friday, express your gratitude to Jesus because “surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering.” Ask God to overwhelm your heart with the power of Jesus’ love so that you can express that hope to others (Isaiah 53:4).

4 Reflect on the reality that Jesus “was pierced for our transgressions ... crushed for our iniquities.” Ask the Spirit to reveal any sin you need to confess—and then rejoice that the punishment put on Jesus has “brought [you] peace” (Isaiah 53:5).

5 On this Easter Sunday, praise God for the glorious words announced by the angel: “Don’t be alarmed ... you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here....” Pray that people around the world are awoken to the power and hope of the resurrected Christ (Mark 16:6)!

6 Mary Magdalene was entrusted with the glorious pronouncement: “I have seen the Lord!” Pray for boldness in declaring your own encounter with Jesus. Ask for opportunities to speak of Him as your Lord and Savior (John 20:18).

7 Jesus’ first post-resurrection words to His disciples were, “Peace be with you!” And they “were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.” Pray that your church engages your community with the joy of the resurrection and the peace of Christ through the gospel (John 20:19-20).

8 Jesus graciously invited Thomas to “put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Pray for your loved ones to fully embrace Jesus, be free from doubt, and believe that the resurrected Jesus lives (John 20:27).

9 When Thomas saw with his own eyes the resurrected Jesus, he could only respond, “My Lord and my God!” Pray that even now believers are overwhelmed in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ and eager to surrender all to Him (John 20:28).

10 Jesus told Thomas that he believed because he saw Jesus for himself, but “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” Praise God for the power of the Holy Spirit and the gift of faith to believe! Pray that you will share your belief in Jesus with boldness and confidence (John 20:29).

11 The resurrection power of the gospel means that “just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” Pray that as believers embrace this new life, they are also empowered to share the gospel (Romans 6:4b).

12 Pray that you are consumed with the desire to “know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection.” Ask Jesus to reveal more of His power to you each day, that you might share that hope with others (Philippians 3:10a).

13 Pray that the “eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.” Pray that you will freely share the joy of “the riches of his glorious inheritance” with others who need Jesus (Ephesians 1:18).

14 Pray that your life is characterized by “his incomparably great power for us who believe.” Ask God to fill you with power that “is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead...” Pray that people will see how the power of the gospel has transformed your life (Ephesians 1:19-20).

15 Praise God that “in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” Pray that as believers reflect that living hope, lost people will be drawn to Jesus (1 Peter 1:3).

16 The resurrection of Jesus means that believers have “an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.” Pray that you live joyfully with the vision of your inheritance that “is kept in heaven for you.” May your joy be infectious to those who do not yet believe (1 Peter 1:4).

17 Ask God to awaken believers to understand the powerful truth that “the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.” Ask God to revive His Spirit within the Church to pray with faith and speak with hope about the living Jesus (Romans 8:11).

18 Praise God that even as He brought Jesus back from the dead, He will “equip you with everything good for doing his will.” Ask Him to gift you with resurrection power to proclaim His glory to a lost world (Hebrews 13:20-21).

19 It was “with great power [that] the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.” Pray for a revived Church to proclaim the gospel and demonstrate His power to those with no hope (Acts 4:33a).

20 As the disciples testified to the resurrection of Christ, “God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.” Ask God to empower His Church as conveyors of grace and hope in a dark world (Acts 4:33b).

21 Praise God that He “gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Pray that your loved ones who struggle will experience the power of the resurrection to overcome every battle (1 Corinthians 15:57).

22 Pray that believers will “set [their] hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” Pray for a vision of the resurrected Christ that empowers them to live in victory and share that hope with others (Colossians 3:1).

23 Pray that the Church will walk in confidence in this chaotic world, knowing that in Christ “the second death has no power over them ... and [they] will reign with him for a thousand years.” Pray that believers stand strong in their identity in Christ with hope for their future (Revelation 20:6).

24 Pray that the lost will declare Jesus as Lord and “believe in [their hearts] that God raised him from the dead.” Ask God to reveal the power of the resurrection and the hope of salvation to those who are desperate for rescue (Romans 10:9).

25 Pray that the believers who are persecuted will know they are blessed for persevering under trial—and that because of Jesus’ resurrection they “will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him” (James 1:12).

26 The power of Jesus’ resurrection means believers are now “being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.” Pray that the Church shines brightly with the glory of the Lord in a spiritually dark world (2 Corinthians 3:18).

27 Declare this truth: “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth.” Ask God to fill you with boldness to proclaim the resurrection power of your Redeemer who rules and reigns and is coming again (Job 19:25).

28 Praise Jesus that “he will swallow up death forever” and “wipe away the tears from all faces.” Pray that the Church is revived to live in this powerful truth as the gospel is proclaimed throughout the earth (Isaiah 25:8).

29 Ask God to use believers around the world to proclaim to those who doubt, “We have seen the Lord!” Pray that fear and unbelief turn into resurrection power and new life for those who will believe (John 20:25).

30 The stories of Jesus’ miracles and His resurrection were “written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” Pray that a lost world believes the truth of the resurrection power of the gospel and exalts Jesus as Messiah and Lord over all (John 20:30-31).