

Encounter Church
Sunday March 31, 2024

Easter
Welcome Home

Share personal Testimony.

WHEN I RETURNED HOME:

1. I found the Father waiting.

I found the Father waiting and willing to welcome me home!

Luke 15:20- “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

The Father is waiting, full of love and compassion.

2. I found an open door.

I found a wide open door, not a closed door.

Hebrews 4:15-16- “He understands humanity, for as a man, our magnificent King-Priest was tempted in every way just as we are, and conquered sin. So now we draw near freely and boldly to where grace is enthroned, to receive mercy’s kiss and discover the grace we urgently need to strengthen us in our time of weakness.”

I found his mercy. God not giving me what I deserved.

I found his grace. God giving me what I didn’t deserve!

3. I found forgiveness.

I found forgiveness not punishment.

1 John 1:9- “But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”

1 John 2:1-2- “You are my dear children, and I write these things to you so that you won’t sin. But if anyone does sin, we continually have a forgiving Redeemer who is

face-to-face with the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 2He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

I found forgiveness because Jesus has already paid the punishment for my sins.

4. I found resurrection.

I found the resurrection of God’s plan for my life.

1 Peter 1:3-5- “What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven—and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you’ll have it all—life healed and whole.”

Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ I found that what God started in my life, He’s going to finish. Yes, I found resurrection!

Philippians 1:6- “And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.”

Conclusion: I found the Father saying “*Welcome Home son!*” I found resurrection!

BUT THIS STORY ISN’T ABOUT ME. IT’S ABOUT A LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER AND A RESURRECTED SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. THAT WITHOUT HIS DEATH, THERE WOULD BE NO RESURRECTION.

Now when people come looking for that guy I once was.

Matthew 28:5-6- “Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.”

Because Jesus has risen I’m forgiven and I’m livin the abundant life He’s provided for me!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?