



Becoming a People Who... Come Alive

"To His Resurrection Power"

Easter Sunday Message Notes: April 21, 2019

Last Sunday, we began our journey through Holy Week with Hosannas – praising Jesus as the Messiah King. Thurs, we experienced the intimacy of the upper room where Jesus washed the disciples' feet and pressed new meaning into the bread and the wine, symbols of his broken body and shed blood given for our redemption. Friday, we paused at the foot of the cross to ponder the weight of our sins and to embrace the wondrous grace of his sacrifice. Today we end our journey rejoicing in his resurrection. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! The empty tomb ignites our hope and infuses our lives with HIS resurrection power.

We do not have in ourselves the power to overcome our fears, weaknesses, and sinfulness. We do not have the power to love deeply, to forgive freely, to serve selflessly. We do not have the power to live the life God calls us to live. BUT - we have a risen Savior and Lord who overcame sin, death, and the grave. HE imparts to us, by his Spirit IN us, the power to transform our lives in all these ways.

Saul (persecutor of the church) had a dramatic encounter with the risen Christ that changed his life forever. He became Paul (leader of the church) a devoted follower of Jesus. Paul wrote:

"I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." [Philippians 3:10](#)

He went on to pray the same for his beloved "children in the faith" at Ephesus – "I pray that the eyes of your hearts may be enlightened so you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great POWER for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead ..."

[Ephesians 1:18-20](#)

"incomparably great *power*" In Greek – "dudimus" the root for *dynamite*. MIGHTY power!
Easter is not *just* about forgiveness; it is also about transformation.

1. Resurrection power cancels out my past, present, and future sins.

- * We are forgiven. Freed from our failures and regrets.
- * This is not denial (God knows what we have done), but He no longer holds our mistakes against us. He does not "rub them in"; he rubs them OUT. He casts them away. He washes us clean.
- * [Colossians 2:13-14](#) Read this beautiful expression of the "cancelation" of our sins - - all our misses (as in missing the target), all our messes, all our regrets.
- * [John 1:9](#) Because of the cross of Jesus, God is righteous to forgive us and cleanse us of our sins.
- * Jesus cried it from the cross – "It is finished!" The Greek expression of the day – "Paid in Full!"

2. Resurrection power gives me a new identity.

- * Many things define people - - race, religion, politics, sexual orientation, jobs, wealth, hobbies, etc.
- * And there are those secret things that define us as well - - addictions, emotional struggles, fears, self-loathing, etc.
- * The Bible has many expressions of our new, identity in Christ - - sheep of his fold, disciples, saints, salt & light, but the best and truest is expressed well in [John 1:12](#) ..."but to them who received Him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become CHILDREN of God."

3. Resurrection power gives strength to face the challenges of life.

- * Life is unpredictable and full of difficulty, turmoil, and suffering.
- * His divinity (His Spirit) inhabits our humanity.
- * Holy Spirit IN us gives us strength, and wisdom, and courage, and power.
- * He cultivates in us his FRUIT. Galatians 5:22-23
- * Galatians 2:20 – “Christ lives in me, and this life I (still) live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me (loves me) and gave himself up for me.”
- * Romans 8:10-11 - “He will give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who lives in you.”