

# Things of the Spirit - Resurrection

Today we celebrate Resurrection Sunday! Church, THIS is the super bowl of the Christian calendar. This is the day that we always build up to. All of the teachings all year long should build up and prepare for this message today of the resurrection.

Most of you know that the baseball season just started on Thursday. It's great, I enjoy watching games on TV and going to a couple of them in person. I like to read about the teams and players. But ultimately what does the regular season matter if there were no World Series? What good would all the stuff leading up to that be if there wasn't some kind of great showdown that crowned a champion?

The resurrection is the crowning of Jesus as champion.....but it's also the crowning of His people, His church, as champion! All the other stuff doesn't matter if Jesus were not resurrected!

## **1 Corinthians 15:12-19 (NKJV)**

Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

I know I share this verse every year but do you get the importance of the resurrection?

Every single person has sinned against God. Every single person deserves death because death is the penalty for sin. But Jesus.....came from heaven, born of a virgin, lived a life without sin, and died on a cross to satisfy the wrath of God against our sin.

In Romans 10 it says if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you will be saved.

See you confess Him as Lord....you declare from your lips that Jesus is your God, He is your master, you are under His authority.

Yet it takes more than words from your lips....it says you have to believe He was raised from the dead. Because if He's dead, He's not alive, and if He's not alive, how can He rule in your life?

Do you know that Jesus is ALIVE? Like for real.....in a body of flesh like ours (it's been glorified, it's not decaying like ours) But it looks like ours, you could touch Him. Thomas felt the holes in Jesus' hands after the resurrection.....

If we only have hope in the fact that He paid for our sins but we one day will lie in a box in the ground forever, what kind of hope is that? Because He lives....we will live forever!

Every person will be raised the just and the unjust, Jesus will judge them and some will reign with Him forever and others will be cast into hell separated from Him forever. This is reality! There's no other option, no other path.

The fact that Jesus lives shows us that the Father accepted His sacrifice for our sins....He is the risen Lord and the risen Savior!

Do you have hope in Jesus today? If not please consider making today your day!

The resurrection is critical to the gospel message....

What does it mean to be resurrected? Exactly what you think it does....to be raised from the dead.

Paul said:

**Philippians 3:10-11(NKJV)**

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Church, do you want to know Jesus? "That I may know" is the Greek word **ginosko** meaning attaining personal knowledge by experience....

Paul knew Jesus by faith, he was traveling and teaching who Jesus is....but Paul desired this intimate relationship with Jesus....and he wanted to know the power of His resurrection in this same way.....Paul wanted to have a personal experience with the power of Jesus' resurrection.

You know there are times where we don't think of the things that Jesus did with the awe and amazement that we should.....Do you know that Jesus died?

I mean He was really dead.....because He is God we sometimes have this attitude like "yeah, He died but it was temporary, He knew He'd be raised to life " We kind of treat it like because He is God it wasn't as big of a deal.

Do you know that not only did Jesus die a brutal death, barely recognizable as a man....but that He was in the tomb for 3 days? The body begins to decay rapidly once the blood stops pumping.

Jesus was not laying there looking peaceful like He was asleep. He was dead. There wasn't anyone in their right mind that would have looked at Him and thought "He's God, He'll be alright". People that saw Him wept, they were distraught, they lost hope....

I want to paint this picture because we've got to realize how this resurrection power of the Holy Spirit is more powerful than the most hopeless situation. As dead as dead can be still isn't too dead for the Holy Spirit to breath life into and resurrect!

Do you want to know this resurrection power of the Holy Spirit? Do you want to know it by personal experience?

If Jesus is your Lord and Savior....that power is IN you.....RIGHT NOW!

**Romans 8:11 (NKJV)**

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

If that Spirit is in you.....there is nothing in your life that is too far gone. There will be a day where your body will die yet be raised to life again.....but do you know the Spirit of God can resurrect ANY situation that man may claim to be dead?

When Jesus came to Lazarus....he had been dead 4 days by the time Jesus got there. People were mad at Jesus...."If only You had been here.....You are too late"....."He stinks now".....

Jesus told them that Lazarus would live again...and not just at the resurrection of the dead. Jesus went to the tomb, prayed, and called the dead man from the tomb.....and by the power of the Holy Spirit Lazarus who was bound hand and foot came out.

You can be dead and tied up and it's not enough to stop the resurrecting power of the Holy Spirit!

Like Lazarus, Jesus had a large stone rolled in front of His tomb, but His was sealed so that it could not be opened. Jesus tomb had guards outside so no one could break the seal. That seal meant authority, those guards meant protection and assurance. But there's no authority that can keep the Holy Spirit out, there's no protection against the Spirit of God.

He entered that sealed, guarded tomb and raised the dead to life! Do you get that?

That same Spirit dwells in you!

He's a conquering Spirit....to conquer means to subdue, to win, to overcome by force. We are talking about a Spirit that is so powerful that it can overcome death itself.

I don't know what you are facing today but you need to know that one encounter with the Holy Spirit can radically transform any situation. What appears to be dead, hopeless, done, finished.....is no match for the resurrection power of God!

I'll tell you what is truly dead....sin and death's dominion....Jesus overcame the grave! And by His Spirit....so did we!

**Romans 8:37 (NKJV)**

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

In all these things....tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword.....basically no matter what you are facing in life.....we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loves us and there is nothing that can separate us from that love!

What are you facing today? What in your life needs resurrecting? What is cast down that needs lifted up?

There is no issue that God can't touch...nothing is too far gone...there's no stone He can't roll away

Consider the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5, she had this bleeding condition for 12 years. She had spent all her money and not only had she not gotten better, she got worse. She was unclean, she couldn't even enter the temple to worship. She was desperate for healing, absolutely hopeless.....What did it take? ONE TOUCH. One instant of contact with Jesus and she was healed...made clean!

Her life looked as though it were over, she was as good as dead. Until she met the resurrection power.

Do you know that power today? Have you had a real encounter with it?

It's a converting power... the Holy Spirit changes hearts and lives. Whatever you think....however you feel....it only takes one encounter with God to change your life from one that is dead to one that is alive!

It's a conquering power.....the Holy Spirit enforces the victory of Jesus in our lives. No matter how outmatched we think we are, no matter how many times we've lost before.....it only takes one encounter with God to gain the victory!

Jesus came that we may have life and life more abundantly. He first came to save us by defeating the works of the devil.

This is what this day is all about. Jesus lives so that we may live....eternally in resurrected bodies.

But He wants us to also have abundant life....a life that is ALIVE! One that is active and thriving not hindered by our flesh but alive because of His Spirit!

He's resurrecting you. Though bodily you may be dying.....spiritually you are living!