

Resurrection Life

Intro: For Christians Good Friday was a good day for us. (Not a good day for Jesus)

Jesus dying on the cross, shedding his blood to wash away our sins and bring us into a relationship with Father.

Foundational teaching of our faith...

- He took the punishment for our sins.
- Died a death that we deserved...
- Now we are born again
- New creation, the old is gone and behold all things are new...

What makes Jesus different to so many other that have died for their faith?

- Many people around the world have been martyred for their faith.
- What makes Jesus different to any other person who made that sacrifice?
- Most of the early church disciples were killed for their faith and some even on a cross...
- If the account closes at the cross Jesus is merely a man with a message and strong conviction.
- Someone who was willing to die for his convictions...

Paul stated it like this:

1Cor. 15:14 And **if Christ** has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

1Cor. 15:17 And **if Christ** has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

- That would mean that Jesus was just like any other man...
- Dead and buried in the ground...

Not only would he be just a man but also a false prophet...

- He told the disciples...

Luke 9:22 And he said, "**The Son of Man must suffer** many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and he **must be killed** and on the **third day be raised to life.**"

- The son of man, the Christ, Saviour of the world must Die then be raised to life.
- That's what was prophesied by the OT Prophets and by Jesus himself.
- He was found to be a false prophet, every word He spoke would have been heresy and therefor invalid.

When Jesus was crucified on the cross the devil thought he'd won...

- But he had also heard the prophesies about the third day...

The devil himself would have done everything he could to stop Jesus from rising again.

- Because while Jesus remained in that tomb, the devil was a winner...
- Every demon in hell would have been holding the Son of God in that tomb.

We know that death and hell was not able to hold him...

Luke 24:1 On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? **6 He is not here; he has risen!**

- Despite the devil’s best effort to keep Jesus in the tomb...
- Despite the fact that every demonic force he could muster would have been helping him.

Jesus, the Son of the true and living God, defeated the devil, death hell and the grave

- Rose again on the third day as it was prophesied.
- Seated at the right hand of the father interceding for us.
- Victorious over the devil and every form of demonic oppression...

Rom. 8:11 The Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you.

Message: Resurrection Life

- That resurrection power lives in you...
- We now live a life of victory not defeat...
- And overcome the power of the devil and demonic forces.

Eph. 1:17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and **revelation**, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and **his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead** and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion**, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

We need a fresh revelation of what it means to have Resurrection Life!

1. RESURRECTION LIFE IS A LIFE THAT IS EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- Power from on high...
- A life of victory not defeat.
- A life of power
- A life of Authority and dominion.

If you get revelation of resurrection life it will transform you and the way you speak.

Hear Christians say things like this...

- Ask them, “how are you going?” Well under the circumstances I’m doing OK.”
- Or there is such a spiritual oppression in this place, it’s impossible to do anything for God.
- Every church that has been planted here has failed...
- There’s a strong occult presence in this town...

Jesus said, **"I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"**

Do you have dominion or are you being dominated?

- To have dominion, means that you dominate...
- You dictate the spiritual climate of the place you live and the situations you face.

EG: **The devil had a good hold of Halls Creek for many years... Devil ruled...**

- 50 funerals in the first 6 years... suicide, domestic violence, abuse and murder.

But then Christians got a revelation of what it means to have resurrection life...

- Aboriginal Christians stood up and said, "We are the head and not the tail"...
- We are going to stand against the enemy and take back our town for Jesus...
- They began to pray for our community...
- Not only did they pray but got a revelation of who they are in Christ.
- The authority that they now have as Christians.
- God's incomparable great power lives within them.

EG: First went to Halls Creek the Christians were fearful of the Lawmen or Witchdoctors.

When it's law time the lawmen would come to Halls Creek to get the boy for circumcision. They would point a stick at the boys and they are powerless to run away. They would take them down to the desert and take them through the different ceremonies. The local people and Christians would be fearful of these men but through teaching and them getting a revelation that the same power that raised Christ lives in them, that fear was replaced with boldness.

One of our Kimberley leaders preaches about it now...He says, "I'm no longer worried when those lawmen come to town... You know why? "Because greater is he that lives in me, than he that lives in the world". He said, I go straight up to them and witness to them because they need the Lord.

Over the years we have seen witchdoctors come to Jesus. Some have said, "we are no longer following the old ways but now following Jesus".

That's because they had a revelation of the resurrection life and the authority they have in Christ.

If we get a revelation of the resurrection life that we have in Christ, we can transform our community.

The second thing I noticed about Jesus after he had been resurrected.

- He was able to do things that he couldn't before.
- He would just appear in places...
- Disciples together and Jesus would just appear in the room.
- Don't know if he came through the walls or just turned up.
- He wasn't a ghost...they could touch him and he ate with them.
- Thinking about this and how it relates to us !
- Not saying that resurrection life will enable you to just appear in places...

2. Resurrection life, is a life free from the limitations of the flesh...

- As Christians we are good at limiting what God can do through us...
- We all know our limitations...
- Gideon in the OT. God spoke to him and said, "Gideon you mighty man of valour."
- Gideon was quick to point out his limitations...
- Out of all the tribes ours is the least...
- Out of all the families our is the least...
- I am the least in my family...
- We are so quick to say what we can't do instead of saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

There are people here today that are limiting what God wants to do through you.

- For some it is a lack of confidence...
- For some, you are still listening to words that were spoken over you years ago.
- Still effects you today...
- You have to stop seeing yourself according to what others have said and start seeing yourself as God sees you.
- Stop being a Gideon... I'm the least.... "You mighty man/woman of valour"
- Stop relying on your own abilities and start to rely on God's word...
- "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

Zech. 4:6 '**Not by might** nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

- It's not about what you can do, but what Christ can do through you.

God's not looking for your ability, but your availability.

When you have that resurrection life you are no longer limited by your natural abilities.

- You are no longer confined to the natural because you are supernatural...
- When your life is empowered by the Holy Spirit you are able do the supernatural.

Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."

- He was talking to his disciples just before his resurrection power was going to be released on the day of Pentecost.
- In the early church, miracles signs and wonders were commonplace.
- Peter's shadow healed the sick...

Paul:

1Cor. 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a **demonstration** of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. (Reliance on the Holy Spirit)

- In past years we have heard great stories of people with that resurrection power.
- Smith Wigglesworth, John G Lake, AA Alan and others
- We see the miracle crusades in Africa, India and South America....

So why don't we see that resurrection power in our lives today?

- Has the days of miracles, signs and wonders finished?
- Was the resurrection power only available to those in times past, or overseas?
- Has the Holy Spirit lost His power?
- What is the Key to seeing resurrection power in our lives?

3. Before there can be a resurrection, there must be a death...

Rom. 6:3 Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Rom. 6:5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

Must be a death not just a fainting to have a resurrection.

If Jesus just fainted, he didn't defeat the enemy... It was just a fake resurrection...

- Many said that was the case, theory to explain away the resurrection...
- but they pierced his side and blood and water flowed from him.

Sometimes people can explain away our born again experience because they just saw someone who merely fainted for a while instead of dying.

- If they aren't seeing someone different, you have merely fainted.
- We should be a new creation... Body soul and spirit.
- To obtain a complete resurrection, there must be a complete death.

- Baptism signifies this.
- Death, burial then resurrection.
- To obtain the abundant resurrection life we must fully die to self.

Mark 8:34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** 35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?"

Death is the key to resurrection...

Die to sin and resurrect righteousness
Die to the world and resurrect Holiness
Die to the kingdom of darkness and resurrect a life in Christ
Die to self he will resurrect life and life abundant.
Die to the flesh he will give you resurrection power.

Jesus set us an example of it in the garden when he said, "Not my will, but Yours be done."

Resurrection life is a life free from the limitations of the flesh.
A life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

God wants to set you free from those limitations...
Revelation of the power of God that abides in you...

Luke 4:18-19

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Not a personal Anointing but a purposful Anointing...