

# The Power of the Resurrection

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**Introduction:** To many the resurrection of Christ is nothing more than an interesting fact.

- A. Satan has taken the powerful word out of many hearts.
  - 1. Some never think and understand the implications of what they have heard. Satan will take advantage of you. **(Mt 13:18-19)**
  - 2. Satan also causes a heart to be filled with other things so one becomes blind. **(2 Cor 4:3-4)**
- B. In the resurrection of Christ we will see the ultimate display of God's power.
  - 1. Jesus had healed a blind man and then made this amazing statement. **(Jn 10:18-21)**
    - a. Notice how some did not want others to even listen!
    - b. Pride caused others to deny the obvious.
  - 2. When his enemies asked for a sign He pointed to His resurrection. **(Jn 2:18-21)**
  - 3. Those who failed to see the power of this event will have the men of Nineveh stand against them at the judgement. **(Mt 12:39-41)**
  - 4. What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you?

## ***I. The powerful evidence of the resurrection***

- A. God chose men who would be eyewitnesses of the raised Christ. **(Acts 1:21-22; 10:39-42)**
  - 1. There is great power in eyewitness testimony. We must decide if these witnesses are true or false.
    - a. Is the person giving testimony in a position to know the facts? **(1 Jn 1:1-3)**
    - b. Does he have an ulterior motive in telling his account? **(1 Cor 15:30-32)**
    - c. Is this person of good character? Is he reliable?
    - d. Are there other witnesses and do they agree? **(1 Cor 15:6)**
  - 2. There is great power in fulfilled prophecy. **(Psa 22:1)**
    - a. The words of Christ are recorded.
    - b. The words and actions of His enemies are recorded. **(Psa 22:6-8, 18)**
    - c. The details of crucifixion are recorded. **(Psa 22:14-17)**
    - d. How can these things be written over a 1000 years before the event and even before crucifixion was even invented?
  - 3. There is great power in miracles that accompanied the witnesses. **(Acts 2:32-33; 4:33)**
  - 4. There are also the statements of non-Christian historians.

“Now there was about this time Jesus a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him many Jews, and also many of the Greeks. This man was the Christ. And when Pilate had condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him from the first did not forsake him for he appeared to them alive on the third day, the divine prophets having spoken these and thousands of other wonderful things about him. And even now, the race of Christians, so named from him, has not died out.”

-- From the Writings of Josephus

- B. Even though this evidence is powerful, it must be received in order to have power in

us. (**2 Thess 1:9-10; 1 Thess 2:13**)

## ***II. The powerful implications of the resurrection***

A. Jesus is the Son of God. (**Rom 1:3-4**)

1. Why is this so? Did not God raise others from the dead?
2. Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. Did God raise an imposter?

B. The judgement of all men is a certainty. (**Acts 17:30-31**)

1. The High priest who condemned Him will see a terrifying event. (**Mt 26:64; Mk 14:62**)
2. Can you imagine what judgement day will be like?
3. Do you believe that Jesus was raised from the dead? Do you really?

C. The glorious resurrection and reunion of the righteous is also certain.

1. Does this describe you? (**2 Cor 4:13-14**)
2. When it is certain to us our entire outlook on life is changed. (**Phil 3:10**)

D. I serve a living Lord who cares for me who now is at the right hand of the almighty God. (**Heb 7:16**)

1. I know that He knows and cares. (**Heb 4:14-16**)
2. Do you have the powerful knowledge that you will never be alone! (**Jn 16:32-33**)

## ***III. The powerful change of the resurrection***

A. There are many who know the facts of the resurrection but not the power. (**2 Tim 3:5**)

B. Our conversion is described as a change from one power to another. (**Acts 26:18; Col 1:13**)

1. What is the greatest manifestation to others that the power has worked in us?
2. Consider the change of conduct from one power to the other. (**Tit 3:3-4**)
  - a. Consider what was said of Paul. (**Gal 1:23-24; Eph 3:7**)
  - b. Can the power of God be seen in you?

C. Consider the strong manifestations of God's power in us.

1. Our response to suffering and slander. (**2 Tim 1:7-8**)
  - a. This by itself may open hearts by the power of God. (**1 Pt 2:12**)
  - b. Is this easy? Can we do it on our will alone?
2. The joy and peace in our hearts that comes from hope. (**Rom 15:13**)
  - a. The world is startled when its wisdom is rejected.

“All that is not eternal is eternally out of date.” - C. S. Lewis

- b. There will be a few who see the vanity of the world and long for something fulfilling.

“I thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast so set eternity within my heart that no earthly thing can ever satisfy me wholly.” - John Baillie (1741–1806)

- c. Will you be the one to display the power of God?

3. The love of God in our lives. (**Eph 1:19-21, 3:17-21**)

## ***IV. The powerful beginning from the resurrection***

A. We must die and be raised as well. (**Rom 6:3-5**)

B. At baptism our faith in the resurrection causes us to find forgiveness! (**1 Pt 3:21**)

1. Our conversion is described as a death, a crucifixion. (**Gal 6:14**)
2. However when this does occur a “new man” will be seen. (**Eph 4:20-24**)

C. When a living faith leads one to be baptized

**Conclusion:** Can a dead man live? (**Rom 6:2; Col 2:20-21**)

A. It is not easy to let the power of God remain in us each day.

B. What does His resurrection mean to you?