

Resurrection Faith

March 31, 2013

I. Introduction

A. Jesus declared that He would be resurrected from the dead after three days.

John 2:18-22 The Jews then said to Him, "What sign do You show us as your authority for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

(See also Mat 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:9; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:31-32; 27:62-63; Mk 8:31; 9:9-10; 9:30-32; 10:32-34; 14:27-28; 14:57-58; Lk 9:22)

B. Every Gospel gives careful details of His resurrection.

(Mat 28; Mk 16; Lk 24; Jn 20-21).

C. Appearances of Jesus after His resurrection:

The apostles give circumstantial accounts of the facts connected with the resurrection; in their public teaching they insist upon it. There are at least 10 different appearances of Jesus as the risen Lord recorded in the New Testament. They may be arranged as follows:

1. To Mary Magdalene alone at the tomb (Jn 20:11-18; 16:9-11).
2. To other women, Mary (Mark 16:1) Salome, Joanna, and others, as they returned from the grave (Mat 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-11).
3. Alone to Peter on the day of His resurrection (Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5.).
4. To the two disciples on the Emmaus road (Lk 24:13-35; Mk 16:12,13).
5. To the ten disciples (Thomas being absent) and others "with them," at Jerusalem on the evening of the resurrection day (Jn 20:19-24).
6. To the eleven disciples (Thomas being present) at Jerusalem (Mk 16:14-18; Lk 24:33-40; Jn 20:26-28 1 Cor 15:5).
7. To the disciples when fishing at the Sea of Galilee (Jn 21:1-23).
8. To the eleven, and more than 500 at once, at an appointed place in Galilee (1 Cor 15:6; Mat 28:16-20).
9. To James (the brother of Jesus) (1 Cor 15:7).
10. To the apostles immediately before the ascension.
They accompanied him from Jerusalem to Mount Olivet, and there they saw him ascend "till a cloud received him out of their sight" (Mk 16:19; Lk 24:50-52; Ac 1:4-10).
11. To the apostle Paul (Saul) on the Damascus road (Ac 9:3-9,17; 1 Cor 15:8; 9:1).

12. It is implied in the words of Luke that there may have been other appearances of which we have no record.

Ac 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days ...

It is also worthy to note that on these occasions the Lord offered His disciples opportunity of testing the fact of His resurrection. He conversed with them face to face. They touched him (Mat 28:9; Lk 24:39; Jn 20:27), and he ate bread with them (Lk 24:42,43; Jn 21:12,13)

D. The apostles preached the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ

The whole of the New Testament revelation rests on this as a historical fact. On the day of Pentecost Peter argued the necessity of Christ's resurrection from the prediction in Ps 16 (Acts 2:24-28).

Acts 1:22 beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." (Acts 2:30-31; 4:1-2, 33; 17:18, 32).

E. Faith in the resurrection of Christ is the basis (foundation) for eternal salvation.

Rom 10:9-13 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. For the Scripture says, "whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for "whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Heb 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

F. The resurrection declares and proves that Jesus is the Son of God.

Rom 1:4 who (Jesus) was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

II. Faith in the resurrection releases God's power in our lives.

A. It results in salvation

Rom 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation

B. It results in righteousness and justification.

Gal 2:16 nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the Law; (Rom 4:5, 24).

C. It gives me rest from self-works

Eph 2:5-6 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

D. It gives me the ability to live in the power of God.

Eph 1:18-20 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

E. It gives me the ability to bear fruit for God.

Rom 7:4 Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit for God.

F. It gives me the ability to know God personally.

Phil 3:10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection ...

G. It gives life to my physical body.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

H. It gives us the ability to live in hope.

1 Pet 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you (Titus 1:1-3; Rom 5:1-2).