

THE RESURRECTION

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Introduction

The resurrection of Jesus, proves who He said He was and what He said is the truth!

1 Corinthians 15:1-20 NKJV

¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. ⁶ After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. ⁷ After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. ⁸ Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

¹² 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. ²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

If Jesus did not rise:

- Our faith is futile (incapable of producing any useful result; pointless)!
- We are still in our sin!
- And those have passed on are lost and have perished.

But Jesus is risen. Which means:

- God through the cross and by his grace, has removed the condemnation, guilt, and penalty of sin.
- **And has declared us righteous, through faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice.**

In 1 Corinthians 15:5 Paul says, "and that He (Jesus) was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve", which got me wondering:

What was the significance of the resurrection in the life of Peter?

Why does Luke and the Paul single Peter out by saying, "The Lord appeared to Peter, then the others."?

Maybe we can find out or at least speculate what the resurrection meant to Peter by looking at his walk with Jesus through the Gospels?

A portrait of Peter

1. John 1:35-42: Peter was a Jewish fisherman who found out about Jesus through his brother Andrew.
 - a. Andrew was a disciple of John the Baptist, who started following Jesus after being told who He was by John.
 - b. Andrew tells his brother Simon (Peter) that they found the Messiah.

2. Luke 5:1-10: Jesus calls Peter
 - a. It seems at first that Peter is acting out of obligation but,
 - b. When he witnesses the catch of fish, his response is worship!
 - c. This is the point that Peter realises who Jesus really is.
 - d. This is a very significant moment for Peter for two reasons:
 - i. **He realises, "Jesus is his Messiah!"**
 - ii. The Redeemer has called him to Follow Him!

3. Matthew 14:22-33: Peter walks on water with Jesus.
 - a. At this point Peter has seen a few things. He witnessed what happened at Cana at the wedding when Jesus turned water into wine.
 - b. **So when Peter hears Jesus tell them, "don't be scared, it's me!"**
 - c. **He says, "Lord, if it's you, command me to come to you on the water."**
 - d. **Jesus says, "Come!" and we know the rest...**

(We sometimes focus on the fact that Peter looked at the storm and began to sink, but he actually walked on water just like Jesus, and the Bible says when he began to sink – **he didn't sink** – Jesus pulled him up again.)

4. Matthew 16:13-23: Peter declares Jesus is the Messiah.
 - a. When Peter makes this statement, he had already had this realisation a while back. He has known since the day Jesus called him that Jesus is the Christ. Since the impossible catch!
 - b. Then Jesus **began to tell them what he must endure...**
 - c. So Peter decides to take it upon himself to rebuke and correct his beloved **Messiah, nor realising that he's just become a mouthpiece for Satan.**
 - d. **"Get behind me, Satan! You are an offence to me,...**

5. Matthew 17:1-13: Peter witnessed the transfiguration.
 - a. Peter was one of only three people who witnessed Jesus' transfiguration.
 - b. **Imagine interrupting a conversation between Moses, Elijah and Jesus...**
 - i. This is a supernatural event and Peter recons,
 - ii. **"Um, it's good that you brought us with you..."**
 - iii. **"We can build tents?..."**
 - iv. Then **this voice interrupts Peter, "This is my Son, Hear Him!"**

6. Matthew 18:21-22: **Forgive...**

7. John 13:1-17: **Jesus washes the disciples' feet**
 - a. Peter to Jesus:
 - i. You will never wash my feet
 - ii. Wash my hands and head and feet

8. Matthew 26:31-35: Peter declares his allegiance to Jesus
 - a. Even if everyone is made to stumble, I will never be made to stumble!
 - b. Even if I have to die with you, I will not deny you!

9. Matthew 26:40-41: **Peter falls asleep when he's supposed to be keeping watch.**

10. John 18:10-11: When they come to arrest **Jesus, he chops off a guy's ear.**
 - a. Do you think he was aiming for the ear?

11. Matthew 26:69-75: Peter denies Jesus

12. Luke 24: 1-12: Peter runs to the open tomb

13. Luke 24: 13-32: Disciples have an encounter with the risen Jesus on route to Emmaus

14. Luke 24:34: They say that the Lord appeared to Peter
 - a. I wonder what was said between Jesus and Peter?
 - b. Maybe Peter said,
 - i. "I love you Lord, I'm sorry for denying you, and saying and doing so many dumb things..."
 - ii. "I love you Lord. please forgive Lord."
 - c. Maybe he said,
 - i. "**Peter**, I know you love me, I forgive you, follow me!"

15. John 21:1-19: Jesus restores Peter
 - a. Simon, do you love me more than these?
 - i. Yes Lord, you know I love you.
 1. Feed my lambs
 - b. Simon, do you love me?
 - i. Yes Lord, you know that I love you.
 1. Tend my sheep
 - c. Simon, do you love me?
 - i. **Lord you know...**
 1. Feed my sheep
 - d. Follow Me!

Conclusion

Considering the life of Peter as Jesus' disciple:

- His extreme high points
- His ability to speak without thinking at some very inappropriate moments
- And his darkest hour: the denial of his beloved Lord and Saviour
- We realise that Peter was actually a very normal guy (maybe a bit rough around the edges, but normal).

Consider this: that Peter's most life altering moment, in spite of witnessing all the miraculous events he had witnessed, was the forgiveness of his Master after he denied him.

What is the significance of the resurrection of Jesus, **in Peter's life?**

Jesus rose from the dead and forgave and restored Peter.

God, through the cross and by his grace, has removed the condemnation, guilt, and penalty of sin. He has forgiven us and **declared us righteous, through faith in Christ's** atoning sacrifice.

He is risen! You are forgiven!

Invitation:

You might have regrets in your life... **but I want to tell you that no matter what it is, when you bring it to Jesus, HE FORGIVES YOU!**

How many times will he forgive you?

As many times as you bring it to him... EVERY TIME!

He loves you! He died for you! He rose to give you life!

Prayer:

Heavenly Father. I am a sinner **and I'm separated from you because of my sin.** But you sent your Son Jesus Christ to die on a cross for all who repent and place their trust in You. Thank you for sending your son.

Lord Jesus, today I repent. I turn away from sin and my own way **and I turn to you...** To trust you, follow you and obey you with my life. Please place your Spirit in me as you promised you would to all those who trust in you. Amen.