

# See Victory

*The Power of Resurrected Hope!*

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A LIFETALKS CORE VALUE SERIES

## See Victory- The Power of Resurrected Hope!

# See Victory - The Power of Genuine Hope!

**Matthew 28** After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. 2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

**Luke 24** 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! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " 8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

**John 20** Early on Sunday morning,<sup>[a]</sup> while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. 2 She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

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3 Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. 4 They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. 6 Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, 7 while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. 8 Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— 9 for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. 10 Then they went home.

**Mark 16** When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.[a]

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## Why it's important to SEE Him in The Resurrection

Mary Magdalene was specifically the first person to see the risen Jesus. In Mark 16:9, it says that Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene. Last at the cross, where Jesus died as the Lamb of God, Mary Magdalene was also the first at the garden tomb to witness the most important event in world history and the pivotal truth of Christianity, namely the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. What a great honor God conferred upon the faithful Mary Magdalene in permitting her to be the first witness of that Resurrection!

She was at the tomb early on that first Easter morning, and as the light of earliest day filtered across Jerusalem, she peered into the cave. Seeing it was empty, she wept.

Then John, the inspired genius who wrote in unusually terse Greek, describes what happened in a way unparalleled in narrative literature.

Finding the grave empty Mary rushed to Peter and John, and most excitedly said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher and we know not where they have laid him." These disciples returned with Mary Magdalene to the tomb and found that what she had told them was true, then departed "to their own homes."

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But not Mary! She stood at the door of the sepulcher weeping, and as she wept two angels appeared, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Seeing her distressed and afraid, they tenderly asked, "Woman, why weepest thou?" Tremblingly she replied, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

What pathos is in the word "my Lord"—my very own Lord, the One who did so much for me, and whom I loved to serve. Turning away she saw a figure, and thinking He was the gardener answered in reply to the question: "Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?"—in words most courageous &--;"Sir, if thou have borne him, hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away."

Mary, so full of her Lord, felt that all others must know Him whose body was missing from the tomb. "She never stopped to think of her own weakness as a woman: love nerves had to take it for granted she is able for the blessed task of taking the sacred body away." Then one word from the Voice she now recognized uttered her name, "Mary"! That old familiar tone gripped her heart, and instantly she cried "Rabboni!" which was her strongest expression of reverent love. Casting herself before the risen Lord, she would have clasped His feet, but He said, "Touch me not!" Thrilled at having Jesus alive again, Mary's love was of a nature which leaned upon the human presence of Jesus. Along with the other disciples, Mary, too, had to learn how "to rise to a higher and at the same time a nearer, but spiritual communion with Him.... Her earthly affection needed to be elevated into a heavenly love" ([John 20:25-29](#)).

Then Jesus commissioned Mary to become the first herald of His Resurrection. She had to go and announce the greatest good news ever proclaimed, "Go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God and your God." We can imagine with what speed Mary ran back through the gates of Jerusalem to tell the disciples that their Lord who had died was alive forevermore. Mary had stayed near to Christ in His journeyings and had cared for many of His human needs until His corpse was laid in the tomb. He now rewarded her with a closer knowledge of things divine, and she was given an honor that cannot be taken away from her, namely, that of being the first among men or women to see the Risen Lord, and to receive the first message from His lips ([John 20:18](#)). Although this is the last glimpse we have of Mary Magdalene, we have no hesitation in assuming that she was present with the women ([Acts 1:14](#)) who assembled with the apostles in the upper chamber for prayer and supplication, and to await the coming of the promised Spirit. Upon that historic day, Pentecost, when a bequeathed Guide and Comforter came, Mary must have been caught up by His power and made an effective witness of her risen and now ascended Lord.

There are one or two important lessons we can learn from Mary of Magdala. First, in her we see what Christ can do for a woman. When He first met her, she was an afflicted, tormented soul, but Jesus healed her of her insanity and also of the maladies of her soul and made her His loyal and sacrificial follower. Have we been cleansed of demon-like sins? This is the application Alexander Whyte makes in his study of this Mary: "We do not know just what Mary Magdalene's seven scars were. But for our learning, Dante's own seven scars are written all over his superb autobiographical book"—

# What Does The Resurrection of Jesus Symbolize?

His resurrection is the guarantee that all the Christian dead will be resurrected at Christ's second coming. For the Christian tradition, the bodily resurrection was the restoration to life of a transformed body powered by spirit, as described by Paul and the Gospels, that led to the establishment of Christianity.

### **It Gives Purpose To Life**

Along with identity comes a genuine purpose for living. Instead of living life without any real purpose, we can now know the reason we have been created - to love God and enjoy Him forever. Jesus Christ, and His resurrection from the dead, has provided the answer to what our purpose is here upon the earth. We not only know who we are, we know why we are here.

### **It Shows We Will Have A Destiny**

Finally, the truth of the resurrection of Jesus provides us with an answer about our future destiny. We now know that this life is not all there is. We are beings made for eternity, and belief in Jesus allows us to spend eternity in the presence of God. Thus, the grave has no ultimate terror for us because we know there is a better existence beyond this life. Belief in Jesus gives us a destiny to which we can look forward.

### **It Is The Guarantee Of Everlasting Life For The Believer**

The resurrection of Jesus is the factual basis for everlasting life for those who believe in Him. If a person believes in Jesus Christ, then one of the provisions is eternal life. Jesus said,

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## What Does The Resurrection Mean to Us?

In the hopes of gaining a deeper understanding of this glorious reality, here are five truths about the resurrection.

### **1) Jesus had a bodily resurrection**

When Jesus was raised from the dead, he didn't leave his body behind. In fact, after his resurrection his scars remained ([John 20:27](#)), he ate fish ([John 20:12](#)), he bodily ascended to heaven ([Acts 1:9](#)), and will bodily come again ([1 Thessalonians 4:16](#)). The Son of God will always have a bodily existence.

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The fact that Jesus still has a body testifies to the dignity of the human body — both the ones that we have and the ones we will have after our resurrection. Matthew Lee Anderson writes, "The resurrection of the body means that to be human with God is to be with him not as disembodied souls, but as people with noses, faces, arms, and legs that are similar to those we currently have" ([Earthen Vessels](#), 60–61).

## 2) Jesus had a justifying resurrection

Perhaps the clearest instance of Paul connecting Jesus's resurrection with his justification is obscured in most English translations. Paul writes in [1 Timothy 3:16](#), "Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory." The word that is translated "vindicated" is typically translated "declared righteous" or "justified" elsewhere in the New Testament.

But if Jesus was perfect, how could he be justified, since justification implies guilt (see [Romans 4:5](#))? The answer lies in Jesus's death and resurrection. A Reformed, Calvinist theologian, Presbyterian minister, Richard Gaffin explains, "As long as [Jesus] remained in a state of death, the righteous character of his work, the efficacy of his obedience unto death remained in question, in fact, was implicitly denied. Consequently, the eradication of death in his resurrection is nothing less than the removal of the verdict of condemnation and the effective affirmation of his righteousness" ([Resurrection and Redemption](#), 121–122).

## 3) Jesus had a Trinitarian resurrection

The pattern in the New Testament is to speak of God the Father as the one who does the raising, Jesus as the one who is being raised, and the Spirit as the means the Father used to raise Jesus. This pattern is seen in [Romans 8:11](#): "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."

Here we see not only that God the Father raises Jesus through the Holy Spirit, but our resurrection will be parallel to the resurrection of Jesus — God the Father will raise us through the Spirit.

## 4) Jesus had a firstfruits resurrection of ours to come

Paul describes Jesus's resurrection as "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" ([1 Corinthians 15:20](#)). Firstfruits is an agricultural metaphor that points to the initial quality of the harvest. Gaffin explains, "Paul is saying here, the resurrection of Christ and of believers cannot be separated. Why? Because, to extend the metaphor as Paul surely intends, Christ's resurrection is the 'firstfruits' of the resurrection 'harvest' that includes the resurrection of believers. This thought is reinforced in verse 23: 'Each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ'" ([By Faith, Not By Sight](#), 68).

## 5) In Jesus, believers are already spiritually resurrected

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The resurrection is not only a future event for believers. Those who believe in Christ have already been raised to life with him. Paul writes, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" ([Colossians 3:1](#)). Christians are people who have already been raised with Christ. Gaffin explains, "[B]eliever's will never be more resurrected than they already are. God has done a work in each believer, a work of nothing less than resurrection proportions, that will not be undone" ([By Faith, Not by Sight](#), 76).

The resurrection is an already but not-yet reality for the Christian because of our union with Christ. Jesus's resurrection means that those who have faith in him have been raised from the dead because they are in Christ, and yet we still await the full experience of the resurrection to come ([Romans 8:22–23](#)).

Because Christ is risen, believers can have confidence that God will also raise us at His coming.

Since Christ did rise from the dead, He is the "firstfruits" of those who will be resurrected. Paul went on to describe this concept in greater detail in the following verses:

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. ( [1 Corinthians 15:21–23](#) )

*Just as the first man Adam sinned and brought the curse of death on mankind, so also the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, was the first Man to be resurrected from the dead ( [1 Corinthians 15:45](#) ). We should distinguish between Christ's "Resurrection" in a body that would never die and "resuscitations" from the dead of people (Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, etc.) who would eventually die again. And just as Christ was raised, so also, we will be raised after we die.*

By the word of Christ, everyone who has died will be raised—not only those who believe in Him, but also those who do not. Everyone will have to give an account to the Creator. However, there is a major difference: believers will be raised to a glorious, eternal life with the Savior, but unbelievers will be raised to everlasting judgment ([John 5:25–29](#)).

What a wonderful hope we have of eternal life—not just physically, but also spiritually! In Christ we are set free from the power of sin and death because He has conquered the grave and satisfied the wrath of God. Considering this amazing truth, we ought to live every day no longer for ourselves but for the glory of our risen Redeemer.

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What to pray: praise God for resurrecting Jesus Christ from the dead and giving you a sure hope of your resurrecting to eternal life with God!

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