

The Power of the Resurrection - Sermon

Romans 6:3-6, 11

Delivered April 2021

To understand the power of the resurrection, you have to know the process involved leading up to the resurrection. Problem is we may not be getting our full resurrection benefits if we do not apply this correctly. This power is important in bringing glory to God.

- This is not about waiting to die and then rise up; this is about living in the full power of the resurrection while still walking on top of the earth.

Paul in Romans explains the process and also the benefits of the resurrection of Christ.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Paul outlines in this scripture the process and the benefits.

The Process

There are several critical things Paul wants believers to know about the resurrection of Christ.

- Okay, there is a defined process and every believer today must still go through this process. If you don't get the process right you will certainly miss out on the full power of the resurrection.
- What is this process? Three steps.
 - No resurrection power without the cross. Pick up the cross. Humble submission, know that you need Him. If you don't see the need for change you will never pick up the cross and never experience the resurrection.
 - Put away what you used to rely on. Bury the things that held you bound before. Put down the old you. Old attitude, ways, hurt, disappointment, shame, etc.
- Put your hope in Christ and He will raise you up through His power. You are alive again, but not the old you.....a new you.

Paul starts to break it down. The Benefits of Resurrection Power:

- Knowledge

- That we are baptized or immersed in Christ. He is in us and we are in Him.
- We experience Christ; we follow Him
- Resurrection power...we don't stay down, we can get up from dead and hopeless situations
 - Our resurrection brings God glory; testimony of His greatness and His power in us
 - The same power that raised Christ is the same power that lives in us and restores us when we follow the process.
- We share in the power to walk in His way; the power is in us
 - Past is behind us; we can move forward...I don't have to stay hurt or broken
- Brand new
 - Improved means there is something leftover that you are bringing over with you....power to leave it in the grave
- Sin is destroyed, we are free from a life of sin. Victory over sin
- Confidence that we have blessed assurance
- Don't have to wait to experience the resurrection....we have the power now
- We can do things that we were never able to do before

I know about the resurrection. Read about it, got dressed up one Sunday each year because of it, heard it preached, and even sang about. I know how to apply it. I know I can get up from being down because of the resurrection.

I'm saved because of the resurrection, whosoever will confess with their mouth that Jesus died and rose from the grave shall be saved. I believe that (Romans 10:8). I have experienced the resurrection power in my own life.

But verse 11 stopped me cold.

¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

But when I read Romans (Nee) I discovered I'm not really experiencing the full power of the resurrection. I know that when I die, that's not the end because I'm in Christ. But I'm missing out on what Paul is describing here today

Two problems – two areas I was missing out on:

- Walking in newness of life. I was walking in improvement and better, but all things had not become new.
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 – Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.
- Sin was not completely destroyed. It was a struggle sometimes to always walk in the Spirit

But I was okay with that because I was still saved. Better than I ever was before. Still experiencing blessings. Still able to recover. Still learning and spending time with God. Still walking in the Spirit...more often than ever before. But I was not fully alive to God.

The key verse that opened my eyes. The word reckon. To apply to your account.

Likewise – since Christ died and rose again in power, through the power of God’s Spirit; then I also should be able to reckon, and account that I am dead indeed. There was the problem.

- Part of me was dead, was alive to God and the power of the Holy Spirit caused me to be dead to that part of my past. It no longer had any effect on me.
- I was not dead indeed.
- It is that second step that I had not completely practiced indeed.

I was still carrying some left over things from my time in the tomb. When you look at the resurrection of Christ, notice:

- John 20, when Peter and John arrived at the tomb, the grave clothes and napkin that was on his head were left in the tomb. Nothing that was on him in the tomb left with him....he left everything back there.

I realized, I needed to go back and visit the tomb again and drop off a few things that I should have left.

Nee – after you are made aware, you have to reckon that this applies to you. It is one thing to know and understand that Christ has risen from the grave, it is totally another thing and another level to reckon that all of this applies to you.

- Know, apply, walk, present

The things that had you wrapped up before, things you wore before, the way you were before, you can’t take that attitude that hurt, those feelings, those ways with you. That burden is gone.

I used to be a zombie-Saint.

Zombie – undead being created through the reanimation of a human corpse. It is a dead body that torments the living. Basically they are dead people physically revived. Known as the walking dead.

Zombie saints. They been dead, they been buried, they rise up....but something isn’t all the way right.

- When I first got saved, I was down, but I got up again...amen...and I didn’t move as fast as I used to getting into sin. Didn’t sin as quickly as I used to. But the old me would show up eventually. Just had to wait a little longer. That is an improved life but not new life.
- Zombie saints
 - Saved, but they can still go off on you.
 - Forgiven, but still doing the same things before they got saved.
 - Healed, but still carrying that old scar that old injury.
 - Forgiven by God, but they having a hard time forgiving others.
 - Serving God, but still serving our flesh.

New life – no aspects of the old is carried over. Do the second step and be buried indeed.

- Until you properly bury the seed, no new life occurs. But I reckon when you bury the seed you get fruit, more than what you had before, and you get new life. It doesn’t look the same.
- If it turns out the same way that it started out...then something is wrong.

- Can't be the seed....cause it was dead to begin with. Must be that second step, something must be wrong in the burial process...because this ain't coming up like it supposed to. Not what I expected.

God also is expecting new life to come out of this. He is expecting us to look different.

There were just some things in my life as a Christian that didn't get buried. Some areas I was still holding onto, didn't want to let go, so when I came up as a Christian, some of that same old dead stuff followed me over into my new life. Could do some things, but not everything well. Walking with dead stuff...walking dead.

I surrendered, but I didn't surrender all.

Next, only one way to truly kill a zombie....gotta kill the brain. Until that old mind and old thoughts are gone, it will be hard to be brand new.

How about you? Are you enjoying the full power of the resurrection? Don't feel bad if you are not.

- Abraham....carried some things with him he needed to leave behind
- Sarah....needed to drop some things off at the tomb

Caterpillar, doesn't look anything like a butterfly

Seed doesn't look anything like the fruit

So to I reckon that I'm buried indeed; I reckon I have His power and can do things I've never been able to do before. I reckon I can use this resurrection power to make a difference and help others to follow Jesus into a new life a new hope by following these three steps. That is the Gospel.

I'm more than just improved, I'm brand new!