

ALIVE FROM THE DEAD

“Because I live, you shall live also.”

Texts: *John 14:19; 2 Tim. 2:8; 1 Cor. 15:1-8*

Jesus' death and resurrection changed the landscape of humanity and the course of human history.

The resurrection of Jesus is significant for it proves the immense power of God to humanity. It reminds us of His complete control and absolute sovereignty over life and death.

According to Dr Ken Chant in his book, *The Cross and the Crown*, there are **two irreducible facts which are fully verifiable historically**:

- a. the unshakeable belief of Christians from the very beginning that Jesus had literally walked out of the grave and*
- b. the existence of a church built on that belief.*

From the day of Pentecost until now, the church has become the chief proof of the resurrection of Christ. If Christ had not risen, how could people explain the existence of the church?

How could they explain the marvellous things that were daily happening among the Christians?
To the first disciples, the living church was an undeniable evidence of a living Christ.

Jesus Himself said, “*I will build my church.*” If Jesus was not alive and did not resurrect from the grave, how then can Jesus build His church?

The issue is not what proves the resurrection.
The issue is what does the resurrection prove.

Important truths that Jesus accomplished in His resurrection:

1. His resurrection proves that He is the Son of God.

His resurrection proves that He is what He claims to be, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Saviour of the world.

Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead.” Rom.1:4

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted

to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. Acts 5:30-31

There is no greater evidence and proof that exists about the divine nature of Jesus Christ than His resurrection.

2. His resurrection proves we have hope.

Read: 1 Cor. 15: 12-20; John 11:25; 1 Cor. 15:54-58

If we will take the resurrection out of Christ, out of the equation, we have no gospel, no salvation, no saving message, and no future hope.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 1 Cor. 15:19

Since Christ has been raised, we can face death knowing that the sting, the venom and the fear of death has lost its victory.

There is life beyond the grave!

Jesus' resurrection guarantees the believer's resurrection at the coming of Jesus Christ.

Paul triumphantly declares, *“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” 1 Cor. 15:55*

3. His resurrection proves our justification.

Jesus did not only suffer and die on the cross to forgive us from all our sins, but Jesus also resurrected or was raised to life for our justification.

*Romans 4:25 – He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification**.*

Through His death on the cross, you and I have been **sanctified** but through His resurrection, you and I have been **justified**.

Justification is a legal term, and it means an act of God by which those who are unrighteous in themselves are declared righteous before God.

Sanctification happens **inside** of you – you are **made** righteous. **Justification** happens **outside** of you – you are **declared** righteous.

Sanctification is a continual process; **justification** is a one-time event.

Sanctification releases us from the ***power of sin*** while **justification** releases us from the ***penalty of sin***.

3. His resurrection restores us back to a position of power.

In the book of Genesis, God said, let us create man in our own image and He said, *“Let them have dominion, or power or authority over all the living, creeping things.”*

In Genesis chapter 3, that dominion, that authority was lost when they disobeyed God.

Humanity became morally corrupt, spiritually bankrupt and became powerless and lived under the dominion of darkness.

More than 2,000 years ago Jesus came, died on the cross on our behalf and on the third day rose again from the grave and He said in ***Matt. 28:18***, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth therefore go.”*

Read: *Acts 1:8; Eph. 1:3; Eph. 1:20*

Through Christ’s resurrection, God’s redemptive plan and His eternal purpose have been complete.