

# **The Resurrection**

## *Meditations of Charles Spurgeon*

The whole system of Christianity rests upon the fact that “Christ is risen from the dead”.  
“If Christ be not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain.  
You are still in your sins.”

If Christ be not risen, then we shall not rise, but if he is risen,  
then they who are asleep in Christ have not perished,  
but in their flesh shall surely behold their God.

What an awaking shall be theirs! They were laid in their last resting place, weary and worn, but such they shall not rise. They went to their rest with the furrowed brow, and the wasted features, but they wake up in beauty and glory. The shriveled seed, so destitute of form and comeliness, rises from the dust a beautiful flower. The winter of the grave gives way to the spring of redemption and the summer of glory.

“Christ being raised from the dead dies no more,  
death has no more dominion over him.”  
So we, being raised from the dead,  
do not go back to our dead works nor to our old corruptions,  
but we live for God.

**“Because he lives we live also.”**  
**“For we are dead, and our life is hid with Christ in God.”**  
**“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.”**

The resurrection is the cornerstone of the entire building of Christianity. It is the keystone of the arch of our salvation. It would take a volume to set forth all the streams of living water which flow from this one sacred source, the resurrection of our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ... The doctrine is the basis of the experience, but as the flower is more lovely than the root, so is the experience of fellowship with the risen Savior more lovely than the doctrine itself.

To know a crucified Savior, having been crucified for all my sins, is a high degree of knowledge, but to know a *risen* Savior, who justified me, and to realize that he has bestowed upon me *new life*, who has made me a new creature through his own newness of life. This is a noble style of experience. Short of it, none ought to rest satisfied.

***Rise—for the Lord is Risen!***

Edited passages from: Charles Spurgeon “Morning and Evening”

# *Imagining The Resurrection*

*Author Alister McGrath* noted that an over-emphasis on knowledge ignores the benefits of imagination, experience and emotion:

“I had thought that we were meant to increase our factual knowledge of events. For example, when reading the text about the ministry of Jesus in Galilee, it was important to be able to find Galilee on the map, understand its cultural history, see how this fit into the general patterns of Jesus’ ministry, and even try to date the event. Yet this led to nothing more than the accumulation of facts. It did not excite or challenge me... I had to think of myself as being there, witnessing what is said and done... no longer was I simply registering ideas as I read. I was reliving the historical events on which my faith was grounded.”

“Walking In The Footsteps of Jesus” Wayne Stiles, p.13

This means we go beyond Bible Study to meditation, actually placing yourself in the situation, and “hearing Jesus” as if He were speaking to you, commanding you. This leads to prayer, asking for direction in how to carry out the good works we are called to do. Prayer leads to Praise, as we are inflamed by the Holy Spirit within us to take action. Like the two men who walked with Jesus on the Road to Emmaus—“***Didn’t our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened the Scriptures for us?***” (Lk 24:32).

Has the flame gone out of your life? The burning? I hope you know that it is not spontaneous. It is not like the sensation we get from our jobs, or money, or family ties, or even our favorite religious activities (including Bible Study). It comes by doing the lonely work of study, meditation, prayer and praise to the Father. It takes time. And time is a very precious commodity in our lives. I have found if I give God 10% of my time (sixteen hours a week) to HIM in meditation, prayer and worship, He changes my life. My life is transformed from the inside. I see fruit gradually come forth (and in my case it has been a very slow process!)

May I impose as to make three suggestion for you? Try these things:

1. *Go back over the list of the Provisions of the New Covenant that I gave you in the Life of Christ #41: Messianic Preparation: The Covenant. We lose sight of the wealth of provision we already have.*
2. *Meditate on Psalm 1 for 7 days, followed by Praise from Psalm 150.*
3. *Pray the Lord’s Prayer, carefully thinking about every phrase: “Do I really see the Holiness of God as He looks down from Heaven? Do I really want His will in my life, or am I doing OK on my own? Am I satisfied with what He is giving me? Do I really want my future in His hands alone? Do I really want to forgive others? Do I even care about others? Am I taking the temptations and the evil in my own heart seriously? Do I want to be delivered? As I ask these questions Lord, You reveal my heart and Your will. I rest in You because everything is Yours:*

***The Kingdom, The Power, The Glory!***

If you try this and nothing happens, try something else. Just don’t give up.

God will wait—He is, after all, a Gentleman, not a Bully!

And Jesus? He is Bridegroom, not a Judge. He shows us how to love.