

If You Want to Live Again

Accept that God Raised Jesus

"Whom [Jesus] God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24).

Believe that God's Power can Raise You

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40).

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).

Confess Jesus as Your Resurrected Lord

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Romans 10:9).

Be Ready When He Comes!

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless" (2 Peter 3:13, 14).

For additional information or requests contact:

**"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"
(1 Corinthians 15:55).**

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JUST FOR YOU



Is There Hope Beyond the Grave?

Some of life's hardest questions come when we deal with death. We face our own mortality and admit that there is much we do not know. What happens when we die? Is this all there is to life? We bury the body, but what happens to the soul—if there is one?

Interestingly, over 80% of Americans believe in life after death. But they don't agree on what that life will be like. Some say our consciousness will be absorbed into the universe. Some believe we'll return to earth in another

body. Others say the soul continues to live in another realm.

This disagreement is caused by a simple reality: the dead don't return to tell us what it's like to die. True, many have had near-death experiences and relate their impressions. But to be dead and buried for a few days, and then come back to talk to us? That just doesn't happen.

Jesus has power over death.

But one time it did happen.

The man Jesus was whipped until He could scarcely walk. He was nailed to a cross, suspended above the ground, and received a spear thrust into His thoracic cavity. Hours later, He was taken down, lifeless. His friends wrapped Him from head to toe in sheets of linen and laid him in a hand-hewn tomb. They rolled a stone across the entrance and left. Witness after witness agreed. Jesus was dead.

Jesus' friends cried and mourned, as friends do when friends die. Jesus' enemies gloated and congratulated one another. For about three days.

On the third day, something took place that should not shock the 80 percent of Americans that say they believe in life after death. The stone was rolled back, the graveclothes were laid aside, and a living Jesus emerged. Life after death had happened.

Evidence for Jesus' resurrection is not sparse. Mark and John, two of Jesus' friends who themselves watched these events, wrote about it in their Gospel accounts. Two other Gospel writers had access to many eyewitnesses.

For comparison, consider that nothing was written about the Trojan War until nearly six hundred years after it happened. Alexander the Great did not appear in written history until nearly three hundred years after his time. Despite the centuries between the event and the writing, most believe these accounts.

Not only did Jesus' contemporaries write about His resurrection; they were willing to die for this claim. Of Jesus' twelve disciples, eleven were martyred for their belief in the risen Jesus. Of all that men are willing to die for, a known hoax is certainly at the bottom of the list.

But even if it's true, why does Jesus' resurrection matter now?

It proves that life after death is real. Jesus' resurrection was a resounding "Yes!" to the age-old question of life after death. Jesus' resurrection proves that death does not have the final say, nor is it a permanent state. Jesus has power over it.

It gives weight to what Jesus says about things beyond this life. Many claim to speak with authority on the afterlife. But only one person has conquered death by returning from the grave. Only Jesus fully knows and tells the truth about life after death.

According to Jesus, what happens after death is not the same for everyone. He tells the story of a wealthy man and a beggar who die and experience the afterlife (Luke 16:19-31). Consciousness still exists, as does feeling, longing, memory, and speech. But their experiences vary widely. The beggar experiences blissful rest; the rich man

suffers maddening torment.

The Bible tells us that those who will live forever with God receive a new body in place of this decaying one (Philippians 3:21). Tears will cease, pain and sorrow will end, and all will be made new (Revelation 21:4, 5). Sin will never enter this new life, and death will never end it.

But Jesus warns of the tragedy awaiting those who reject Him. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36). To reject Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life is to reject the only hope of eternal life.

It makes Jesus the author of our salvation. By rising from the dead, Jesus not only proved that resurrection is possible; He showed that He is the power over death. When we believe and obey Him, He personally guarantees that the same resurrection power will work in us. "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19).

Because Jesus lives, we may live also!

From now until the world ends, the living will bury the dead. But even under death's sad shadow, hope is possible! When Jesus rose, He conquered death not only for Himself, but for all who place their trust in Him.

We will always grieve at death. But for those who die in Jesus, death is a sad story with a glorious and happy ending. Death is the beginning of an eternity of living with Jesus, the very author of life itself.