

WHAT JESUS' RESURRECTION MEANS TO ME

First, it means that **Jesus is the very Son of God**. Jesus had said, "I lay down My life, in order that I may take it back again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it back again" (Joh 10:17-18). Only God or a deluded maniac would make such a claim. The fact that He rose demonstrates His tremendous divine authority. Paul also wrote: "... according to His holy divinity, [He] was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead" (Rm 1:4).

Secondly, His resurrection makes me sure that **I can trust everything that He said** as saving truth. Early in His ministry He made the veiled claim, "Destroy this temple, and I shall raise it in three days" (Joh 2:19). Such a claim involved both His knowledge of the future, and His uttering authoritative divine words that bring about what they say. It shows that His words have the full authority also of God the Father. He had said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing on My own authority, but that I am speaking these things as My Father has taught Me" (Joh 8:28). His resurrection confirms this.

Thirdly, His resurrection **confirms the Old Testament prophecies**, which had foretold that the Messianic Son of David, the Servant of the Lord would rise. David wrote about Him, "You will not abandon My soul to the grave, or allow Your Loved One to see decay" (Ps 16:10). Isaiah wrote about the Servant of the Lord, after He had poured out His soul to death, "When You have made His life a sacrifice for guilt, He will see His offspring; He will prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. Because of the suffering of His soul, He will see, and be satisfied" (Isa 53:10-11).

Fourthly, His resurrection make me confident that my sin has been **forgiven**, that God declares me **not guilty** for His sake, and will do so also on judgment day, and that I have been **reconciled** to God. He had taken on Himself the sin of the world. The fact that the Father raised Him shows that what He had done had been an adequate sacrifice to cover the sin of the world, and therefore also my sin. Paul wrote: "He was handed over because of our offences, and was raised for the sake of our justification" (Rm 4:25); and "If, while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, now that we have been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Rm 5:10). It assures me of my **salvation**. Paul wrote: "You are also saved by it if you cling to the word that I have preached to you, unless you have become believers in vain. For I delivered to you first of all what I also received: that Christ died for our sins as the Scriptures said He would, and that He was buried, and that He was raised again on the third day as the Scriptures said He would" (1 Cor 15:2-4).

Fifthly, His resurrection confirms His choice of **apostles** to be **witnesses** of His resurrection. For they saw Him, touched Him, and spoke with Him after He rose. Paul wrote: "If Christ has not been raised, then... we are also found to be false witnesses of God, because we have testified about God that He has raised Christ; but He did not raise him if it is true that the dead are not raised" (1 Cor 15:14-15). John wrote: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at, and our hands have touched, concerning the Word of Life -And the Life has been revealed; and we have seen It and we testify to It, and we proclaim to you the eternal Life, which was with the Father and which has been revealed to us. What we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you" (1 Jn 1:1-3).

In the sixth place, His resurrection confirms the **truth** of the whole Christian **Gospel** that is proclaimed. Paul wrote: "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is useless" (1 Cor 15:14).

In the seventh place, it confirms that my **faith** is not some deluded fantasy, but grasps and receives what is objective and real. Paul wrote: "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Cor 15:17). Indeed I know that the fact that I have faith means that God has worked in my heart with the same power as He worked in Jesus Christ when He raised Him. Paul wrote: "... that you may know the hope to which He has called you, how rich His glorious inheritance is among His holy people, and how incomparably great His power is for us, who believe according to the working of His mighty power. He worked that same power in Christ when He raised-Him from the dead" (Eph 1:18-20).

In the eighth place, it assures my **hope** for my bodily resurrection with Him. Paul wrote: If in this life only we have _ in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all other people. But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:19-20). When He was about to raise Lazarus, Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. The person who believes in Me will live even if he dies. And everyone who lives and believes in Me will assuredly never die" (Joh 11:25-26). Just before He began His agony in Gethsemane He had told His disciples, "Because I live, you also will live" (Joh 14:19). This hope includes the assurance that I shall see my loved ones who have died as believers with Him in glory. Paul wrote, "Fellow

Christians, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, so that you may not grieve like the others, who have no hope. For, since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, we believe that even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep" (1 Ths 4:13-14).

In the ninth place, His resurrection makes the fact that I have been **baptised** very meaningful, for it has **united** me with His death, burial, and resurrection. Paul wrote: "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might begin to live a new life. If we have been planted together with Him in the likeness of His death, then we shall be planted together with Him also in the likeness of His resurrection" (Rm 6:4-5); and "You were buried with Him by baptism, by which you were also raised with Him, through the faith that is worked by God, who raised Him from the dead" (Col 2:12). This union that I have with my risen Lord strengthens me to suffer with Him, and to crucify myself with Him, and reminds me that I shall be glorified with Him, sit with Him in heavenly places, and reign with Him. Paul wrote: "In Christ Jesus, God raised us with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms" (Eph 2:6) and "If, by the transgression of the one man, death reigned through the one man, much more, those who have received God's overflowing grace and His gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One Man, Jesus Christ" (Rm 5:17). So I know that Christ and His Spirit dwell in me, and strengthen me for the battle against my sinful nature. Paul wrote: "You, however, are not in the sinful nature, but in the Spirit, if God's Spirit dwells in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your bodies are dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is dwelling in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit, who dwells in you"" (Rm 8:9-11).

In the tenth place, His resurrection confirms that, as a new creature, I have begun to **lead a new life** as I daily put on the new man. Paul wrote: "He has died for all, so that those who live may no longer live for themselves, but for Him, who has died for them and has been raised ... Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have passed away; look, they have become new" (2 Cor 5:15, 17).