

The Resurrection: An Irrefutable Fact



At the very heart of the Christian faith is the irrefutable fact that Jesus after having been dead three days was raised to life. If it was not for this one truth, there would be no Christian faith, no hope nor a church.

For those who are skeptical, who have their doubts, I get that. By itself, this coming back to life after one is dead is very difficult to grasp. But, there is overwhelming evidence that after Jesus died he was seen by his disciples and others fully resurrected. And this same resurrection is the promise given to everyone who by faith (without all the answers), puts their trust in Christ.

In looking at these appearances, there is not one but ten (10) different eye-witness accounts of those who saw, spoke, touched and even ate with Jesus after his resurrection.

If God's divine powers can create an atom, the stars and galaxies, human cells and the DNA that holds the blueprint for all life, then

how much more is God who created everything, capable of bringing of bringing the dead back to life.

Why is the resurrection the hinge point of all Christianity, because through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, death as we know it is conquered? And not only death, but our sins are eternally forgiven and we are made blameless in Jesus Christ.

Now, for those who are not facing death, for those who are young, healthy, have a good life and have plenty time to spare, it's easy to shrug off this whole resurrection thing, until a later time. But for the aging, for those who are battling an illness, or for those in the grip of addiction or for those struggling through a divorce or a severed relationship or for those who face death—one begins to ponder these questions: Does God exist? Is there life after death? What if it is true—Jesus was raised from the dead?

Jesus after he was fully resurrected appeared to his disciples at least 10 different times over a period of 40 days. And when he appeared to them, he appeared in bodily form. He was fully resurrected.

Paul writes in **Roman 6:4**
"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead

through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.”

He went first to his disciples because he loved them, they were confused at his death and most importantly, he wanted to affirm to them that he was indeed the Son of God. Before he ascended into heaven, he gave them the mission to go into all the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:16-20).



Jesus' 10 appearances are:

Appearance 1. On the morning of the first day, his disciples went to the tomb and discovered it was empty. Some people believe grave robbers stole his body. But that same morning Jesus appeared to Mary in the garden (John 20:16).

Appearance 2. In the afternoon of the first day, Jesus appears to Cleopas and another disciple on the road to Emmaus. He speaks to them, eats with them and they recognized him as the risen Christ (Luke 24:13-30).

Appearance 3. In the late afternoon on Sunday of the first day, Jesus appeared to Peter in Jerusalem (Luke 24:33-35; 1 Cor 15:5a).

Appearance 4. In the evening on the first day, Jesus appeared to the 11 disciples and others in Jerusalem (Luke 24:36-49) and again to the 10 disciples without Thomas (John 20:19-25).

Appearance 5. Eight days later, Jesus appears to the 11 in Jerusalem with Thomas (Mark 16:14; John 20:26-29).

Appearance 6. A few weeks later, Jesus appears to 7 of his disciples on the sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25).

Appearance 7. Near the end of the 40 days, Jesus appears on the mountain in Galilee and gives them the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18; 1 Cor 15:5b).

Appearance 8. Near the end of the 40 days, Jesus appears to 50 people at once (near Galilee?) (1 Cor 15:6).

Appearance 9. Near the end of the 40 days, Jesus appears to James (Jerusalem?) (1 Cor 15:7a).

Appearance 10. On the 40th Day, in Bethany, Jesus appears to the 11 disciples and ascends into heaven.

In all of these appearances, Jesus shows them the actual evidence that he has conquered the last

human battle—death. And that is the good news of Gospel!

We also don't want to forget, how Jesus during his 3-year ministry, raised three people who were dead and brought them back to life—the widow's Son in the village of Nain (Luke 7:11-17), Jairus' young daughter (Luke 8:49-56) and Lazarus (John 11:1-44).

The resurrection was not to prove a point nor was it to offer people a new spiritual experience, The resurrection was God rolling out his plan of redemption. A plan he had promised eons ago. He was ushering in a new kingdom. And in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, that new kingdom had arrived.

And that new plan of redemption comes with a commission and a few promises.

God's commission is to go and give witness to the Easter Story. To share your faith, mentor others in the faith and make disciples.

God's promises are more than we can imagine or more than we deserve. They are:

1. We are made one with Christ through his death and resurrection.
2. When we die, we too will be raised to new life. We will have a bodily resurrection, like Jesus.
3. Our sins are forever forgiven. The sins in our past, present and all our future sins—ones we haven't even committed yet.

4. Christ promises to return to us a second time.

Believers and followers of Christ, those who receive by faith these promises, live with the promise of eternal life.

If you would like to know more about how you might receive the same promises or if you need prayer, or you have a nagging question, call or email me. My door is open to all those who are seeking.

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