



The Christian Life Institute

Monday, April 13

Thank you for joining us today, as we continue our series, at the Christian Life Institute, presented through 15-minute encouraging messages three times per week, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 12:45 Central time, on practical ways to grow forward in Christ in uncertainty, unpredictability, and upheaval.

This message is entitled: Living the Resurrected Life

In the message on Friday, we shared how we know from Scripture that we have the victory in Christ Jesus, He is our Christus Victor. “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57). Yesterday, Resurrection Sunday, we celebrated the fact, not opinion – but fact, that Christ lives – He is risen and is seated at the right hand of God. In Hebrews 1:3, we read “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

Peter says that “we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). Peter connects Jesus’ resurrection with our regeneration, our new birth. We are made spiritually alive. Paul can say in Ephesians 2:5-6 and Colossians 3:1 that God “made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) and *raised us up with him.*” When God raised Christ from the dead, we too, were spiritually raised “with Christ” and recipients of newness of life. Paul, in Philippians 3:10, writes “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection ...” Paul knew that even in this life the resurrection of Christ gave new power for Christian ministry and obedience to God.

So, we ask, what are our goals in Christ? Are we desirous of appropriating the newness of life we have in Christ and living in the surpassing greatness of His power? Paul connects the resurrection of Christ with the spiritual power at work within us when he tells the Ephesians in 1:19-20, that he is praying that they would know “what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in

Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places.” Paul makes it clear that the power by which God raised Christ from the dead is the same power at work within us. Paul further sees us as raised in Christ when he says in Romans 6:4 and 11, “we were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life ... So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”

This new resurrection power in us includes *power to gain more and more victory over sin* in our lives. We must understand that while we are in a spiritual battle, as we shared in the message on Friday, we have the ultimate victory in Christ and we must believe that if we choose to walk in the Spirit, as Paul says in Galatians 5:16, “but I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh and in Romans 6:14 and 1 Corinthians 15:17 “sin will have no dominion over you,” even though we will never be perfect in this life. This resurrection power also includes *power for ministry in the work of the kingdom*. It was after Jesus’ resurrection that He promised his disciples in Acts 1:8, “you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.” This new, intensified power for proclaiming the Gospel and working miracles and triumphing over the opposition of the enemy is provided to Christ’s disciples and is provided to you and I and was intended to dominate our Christ-centric lives.^[1]

Paul writes in Galatians 2:20, I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” We have the power of the resurrection, the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ in us. Spurgeon reminds us that we have become partakers of everything that is Christ - we are circumcised with him, dead with him, buried with him, risen with him, because we cannot be separated from him. We are members of his body and members of one another.

All who put their faith in Christ - believe in Christ - are risen with Christ. As Paul reminds us, we are new creatures, (“if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come,” 2 Corinthians 5:17). Christ becomes our life, if we choose to allow Him to be Lord. If we choose to be a surrendered vessel to His will and way. If we choose to seek

[1] Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 614–615.

Christ and the things above (“set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth,” Colossians 3:2).

Since we are risen with Christ we can walk in newness of life. We can experience true, transformative change. As Spurgeon says, “how great the change! For now the power of corruption within us is broken, the new life has overcome it, for it is a living and incorruptible seed which lives and abides forever.” In 1 John 1:3 we read, “see what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so, we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” With David in Psalm 8:4, “what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?”

As Spurgeon writes, “what an amazing power is this! Now we “taste of the powers of the world to come,” and we are “strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Faith girds us with a divine power, for “all things are possible for one who believes” (Mark 9:23) and each believer can exclaim, without boasting, “I can do all things through him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). Is it not a glorious thing, that God’s strength should be perfect in our weakness, as Paul cried in 2 Corinthians 12:19, “but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

You and I have a changed life – a resurrected life – a power-filled life, through the Spirit in us. We no longer have to be controlled by the “the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world (1 John 2:16). We must choose to digest, truly appropriate within the depths of ourselves that “therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Paul in his letters, Peter in his Letters, John in his letters exhorts us to live this new Christ-centric, Spirit-filled life victoriously. To pursue Christ, and Him alone. “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1). Let your words, thoughts, actions reveal your new life.

Let us “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Let us choose to look up into the love-filled eyes of our Savior. Let us choose to hear His grace-filled voice. Let us choose to see His merciful refining act in our lives. Let

us choose to worship, service, glorify – be an imitator of Christ and reflect His love and hope to others for the edification of our brothers and sisters in Christ. “So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church” (1 Corinthians 14:12). Let us choose His way, His will, His purpose.

We can practically, in the here and now, seek the things above – the things not of this world and value them as Christ values you and me. John reminds us that “we have an anointing from the Holy One” (1 John 2:20) and further that “His anointing teaches you about all things and is true and is not a lie and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him” (1 John 2:27). We know from John’s Gospel that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all Truth. “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come” (John 16:13).

Let us choose to walk with The One, True, Living God, and to know the fellowship of the Spirit. Paul reminds us, as he closes his letter to the church in Corinth “[let] the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14). Let us seek heavenly graces; for “every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). Let us seek more faith, more love, more patience, more zeal: let us choose to pursue greater charity, greater brotherly kindness, greater humbleness of spirit. Let us choose to pursue and follow after Christ as his command that “if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” Let us pick up our cross, follow after in His footprints, and sanctify everything by His love, loving our neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31).

So, as we close, let us choose to:

- Focus not on the things of this world but on Christ, our Lord and Savior.
- Choose to dwell on Christ and His ways and will as the subject of our thoughts, our desires, our emotions, our love. “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalm 37:4). Let nothing come between you and your heavenly Father.
- Let Christ be everything to you – your all in all.

- Long to know Christ more and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means he might attain unto the resurrection from the dead (See, Philippians 3:10).
- Seek after holiness and long to become like the Lord Jesus.

In this season, and life which is a journey of seasons, we as Christ-followers, have opportunities to, through His strength and His power reflect Him to a broken and hurting world – so, let us persevere and come together, even when technology weary.

Let us agree together to:

“Walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Thank you for joining us for Live Streaming on YouTube. Please join us again on Wednesday, April 15th at 12:45 CST. Please check out our other videos on YouTube and please subscribe to us on YouTube as we need 100 subscribers for our own YouTube channel.

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