

Proclaiming the Resurrection

Acts 4:33

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“And with great power the apostles gave witness
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.
And great grace was upon them all.”

The Resurrection is an Attested Fact

Acts 1:2-3 “...the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by *many infallible proofs*, being seen by them during *forty days* and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.” (NKJV)

- ◆ He presented himself to them
- ◆ He provided proofs to them
- ◆ He was seen by them
- ◆ He conversed with them.
- ◆ He appeared to multiple people
- ◆ In different combinations of people
- ◆ On multiple occasions
- ◆ In multiple locations
- ◆ Over a 40 day period of time

This is not some brief glimpse kind of a thing like a bigfoot sighting you see on TV.

Instead, the fact of his being alive was confirmed and reconfirmed in individual experiences... and reinforced by the experiences of others. This actually happened.

Acts 2:32 “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.”

Why the resurrection?

Why not His teachings? Why not His moral example? Why were they not giving witness to the cross? In First Corinthians 2:2, Paul wrote: “For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

Why are the Apostles said to give emphasis to the resurrection and not the cross? Because Christ’s death wasn’t in dispute; everyone was there for his Crucifixion. They had seen *many* die by crucifixion, but had seen no one return from the dead. The resurrection was unique!

The Significance of the Resurrection:

1. Christ’s Resurrection Verified His Claims

1 Corinthians 15:17 “And if Christ is not risen, *your faith is futile...*”

Romans 1:4 says Jesus was “*declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*”

How do we know that Jesus isn’t just a great moral example? A great teacher of ethics? Because we can visit the graves of great teachers. The resurrection declared Jesus to be the Son of God!

2. Christ’s Resurrection Validated His Atoning Work on the Cross

1 Corinthians 15:17 “And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; *you are still in your sins!*”

How do we know Jesus was a sinless sacrifice? How do we know His sacrifice was accepted? How do we know our sins are truly and fully forgiven? We know because the Father raised him from the dead!

3. Christ’s Resurrection Represents the First Stage of His Exaltation as Man

I say His exaltation as man — because as God, he is already exalted. As God, he merely returned to Heaven and resumed his previous glory. As the obedient Man, he was exalted. The stages in his exaltation are: His resurrection, his ascension, his enthronement, his return in glory, and his eternal reign. You will note the resurrection was just the first stage.

Acts 2:32-33 “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being *exalted to the right hand of God...*”

Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that *God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*”

4. Christ’s Resurrection Power Secures for Us Spiritual Power

In Philippians 3:10, Paul tells us his goal was
“That I may know Him and *the power of His resurrection*”

Ephesians 1:18-20 Paul prayed for the Ephesians to be enabled to see, “...what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of *His mighty power* which He worked in Christ *when He raised Him from the dead* and seated Him at His right hand...”

In the gracious plan of God, resurrection power secured for us spiritual power!

5. Christ’s Bodily Resurrection Previews Our Bodily Resurrection

Leon Morris: “Jesus’ resurrection has always been understood as something unique; it was the defeat of death, not a return to life like Lazarus’s raising.”

1 Corinthians 15:20 “But now Christ is risen from the dead, and *has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*”

His is the prototype of the resurrection body. We will be made like him!

1 Peter 1:3 God “...has begotten us again to a *living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*”

Scripture taken from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

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