

Bodily Resurrection... Spiritual Results

An Easter Message

First Peter 1:3-12, especially verses 3-4

Jesus' resurrection was literal, bodily, physical, tangible, and visible. It was an actual historical event. However, it was more than just an event which took place in history. His physical resurrection has produced spiritual results in us. We have several to look at from multiple places in the New Testament. So use your notetaking page which has been provided to keep track with me as we look at the various passages.

Some of the results of the resurrection include:

1. The New Birth

In some way, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead made it possible for us to be made born again. Listen to verse 3:

1 Peter 1:3 "Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to His great mercy, He has given us a *new birth* into a living hope *through the resurrection* of Jesus Christ from the dead"

We see a similar idea in Romans 6:4 "...just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in a new way of life."

Why would this be?

Well, first, because it takes a living Savior to save 'ya.

Second, the Holy Spirit is the Person of the Trinity who makes us born again, and he couldn't come until Jesus ascended to Heaven. And, if Jesus were still dead in the grave, Jesus couldn't have ascended and the Spirit couldn't have come to us.

So, the bodily resurrection of Jesus secured a spiritual resurrection in us!

2. A Future Orientation

As God's people, we live in light of the future. The Bible word for this future focus is "hope."

Hope is “The certain expectation and joyful anticipation of that which is yet future for the Christian.”

1 Peter 1:3 “...He has given us a new birth into a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

Hope is a “certain expectation.” In the New Testament, hope doesn’t mean we wish for something. Like, there’s a 100% chance of rain today, but I hope it doesn’t rain.

Hope is also “joyful anticipation.” Like the little boy whose Dad has promised to take him fishing the next morning. He’s gotten his rod and reel out. He has his tackle box already. And he cannot sleep because of the anticipation. We are on the edges of our seats, living in anticipation of the last trumpet!

3. Forgiveness of Sins

Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that we could have no assurance that our sins are forgiven. The resurrection authenticates the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. It verifies that Jesus was the sinless sacrifice who was, in fact, qualified to take away sins. It confirms that payment in full was accepted.

It is stated negatively in 1 Corinthians 15:17: “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins.”

We see it positively stated in Acts 13:37-38, as the connection between the resurrection and the forgiveness of sins is affirmed: “But the One God raised up did not decay. Therefore, let it be known to you, brothers, that through this man forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you”

4. Resurrection Power

In Philippians 3:10, Paul stated, “My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection...”

In Ephesians 1:18-20, he prayed that those believers would know, “what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might *that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead* and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places” (ESV).

The wonder working power we sing about, and long for, and so desperately need... is transmitted to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ!

5. Fruitful Service

God doesn't fill 'ya to thrill 'ya. He empowers you to use you in service.

Romans 7:4 tells us that Jesus, "was raised from the dead—that we may bear fruit for God."

Look at Hebrews 13:20-21: "Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—with the blood of the everlasting covenant, equip you with all that is good to do His will."

Again, we see the connections between the resurrection of Jesus and ourselves being equipped for fruitful service.

6. Living Intercessor

Jesus did more than make atonement for us on the cross. Even now, he is interceding for us. He is our eternal go-between. He is alive and his very presence represents us at Heaven's throne.

Romans 8:34 "Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the One who died, but even more, *has been raised*; He also is at the right hand of God *and intercedes for us.*"

Don't be endlessly tormented by shame!

"...Therefore, He is always able to save those who come to God through Him, *since He always lives* to intercede for them." (Hebrews 7:24-25)

7. New Status in the Unseen Realm

Look what else the Father did for us through Jesus' resurrection:

Ephesians 2:6-7 "Together with Christ Jesus *He also raised us up and seated us in the heavens*, so that in the coming ages He might display the immeasurable riches of His grace through His kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

I have a pastor friend who once sent me a note with this verse reference and his own comment, "Keep looking down!" Because Jesus represented us on the cross, he also represented us in his resurrection, and then represented us in his ascension, and then in his enthronement. Right now, we are seated with him!

8. Bodily Resurrection

Romans 8:11 contains a terrific promise: “And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you.”

Christ’s resurrection ensures our resurrection!

And how do we know? Because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

In fact, we see all three Persons of the Trinity in this verse: The Spirit who presently indwells us, the Father who raised Jesus from the dead, and Christ the One raised. The Persons of the Triune God are all in for our eternal life!

And on that day, we will be...

9. Ultimately Transformed to be Like Jesus

We have a risen, glorified Savior, but we sometimes we don’t feel so triumphant, do we? Rather than glorified Jesus, we are more like our fallen Father, Adam. God knows! And he has given us this assurance:

“And just as we have borne the image of the man made of dust, we will also bear the image of the heavenly man.” (1 Corinthians 15:49)

Colossians 3:4 says it another way: “When Christ, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.”