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## Resurrection Power for Every Dead Place



Something far beyond extraordinary happened in Jerusalem two thousand years ago — and it changed everything.

After Jesus was crucified and buried, the disciples were scattered, afraid, hiding behind locked doors. But then something shook the world. Jesus rose from the dead. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene in the garden. Then to Peter. Then to the eleven disciples. Then — listen to this — to more than five hundred people at one time. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 15:6 that most of those five hundred witnesses were still alive when he wrote those words, as if to say: go ask them in this village and that village. They will tell you that they met the risen Jesus Christ.

This is not a myth. This is not a metaphor. This is history with thousands of witnesses. **With all the prophecies fulfilled, this resurrection proved Jesus' divinity and that Jesus is God. Jesus' resurrection proved that there is life after death.** Life after death? Yes! Jesus has given to us Eternal life through his sacrifice on the cross. It is God's life that we cannot understand at all from the first hearing. Death is not at all the end of the story. People were willing to die for the truth that Jesus is alive.

Not only the deep truth about true Life, but Jesus also gave an example for us who follow how to go through life's tribulations. The Apostle Peter wrote to the scattered and suffering believers with this declaration; **"For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, LEAVING YOU AN EXAMPLE, that you should follow in His steps."** (1 Peter 2:21)

Follow in His steps in tribulation and darkness. That is our invitation today. We will focus how to follow Jesus through Friday's fear and pain, through Saturday's confusion and grief, and into Sunday as the day of freedom and joy. This profound truth of life in Christ is what I want to talk about today. Because the same resurrection power that raised Jesus from the dead can raise any dead area of your life.

When you are in fear and pain, what should you do? Do like Jesus. He looked for friends and God in front of immanent death. He talked to his friends about what was going to happen. And Jesus took His close friends to the prayer place Gethsemane. When your heart is filled with agony, you should express it to friends. The scripture states, **"He was filled with anguish and deep distress and He said to them, My heart is so overwhelmed and crushed with sorrow that I feel like I'm dying. Just sit here and watch with Me."** Friends, I feel like I am dying! Friends pray with me! Be with me! It is what Jesus did.

If Jesus did that, then you should do that. You are allowed to feel your pain. That is why we need friends. Emotions need to be expressed. Do not repress them. Friends support the friend, friends pray together. Do you have friends for such times of fear and pain? The Small Group's purpose is this. It is not an institutional religious frame at all. It is to share life and love and pray sincerely together. **Elie Wiesel**, who was a prisoner at Buchenwald Concentration Camp under the German Nazis, a friend of his in later years of life asked him, "Elie, how did you get through the horror of the Holocaust?" He said, "Rick, God and friends, God and friends." So, you need God and friends too.

And what Jesus did? **Prayed to God frankly.** He prayed to 'Abba,' that means daddy. "Father, I know you can do all things, and I don't want to have to drink this cup of suffering. Nevertheless, I want your will, not mine, to be done." Friday was brutal. Jesus was beaten, mocked, stripped, and nailed to a Roman cross. **1 Peter 2:24 in the NRSV says this: "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might live for righteousness free from sins; by His wounds you have been healed."**

Jesus had the power to come down from that cross. But He stayed. He stayed through the pain. And here is what I find deeply meaningful. Jesus did not suffer silently. He cried out to His Father: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” He sweated drops of blood in Gethsemane. Jesus modeled something we often forget in church. You are allowed to feel your pain. You are allowed to cry out. You are allowed to tell God this is too hard.

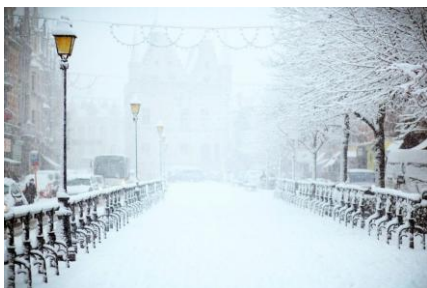
Maybe you walked in here today carrying your own Friday. A diagnosis you just received. A relationship that shattered. A dream that died. A burden you simply cannot put down. Jesus does not ask you to pretend Friday is not real. He lived it first. He is not a stranger to your pain. He is intimately acquainted with it.

Then came Saturday. Saturday is silent. It is waiting. It is not knowing. Jesus was dead. Everything they had believed, everything they had staked their lives on, it was sealed behind a stone. Luke 24 tells us that some of the women went to prepare burial spices. They were not expecting a resurrection. They were preparing for a permanent goodbye. I think many of us are living in the Saturday season right now. You believe in God — you really do. But Heaven feels quiet. You have prayed. You have waited. And nothing seems to be moving. There is a specific kind of grief on Saturday because it feels like even hope has gone silent.

A young man in 19th century England knew that feeling intimately. His name was Charles Spurgeon — who would later become one of the greatest preachers the church has ever known. But before all of that, there was a young Charles walking under the heavy weight of deep depression. Guilt. Darkness. A soul that ached for relief but could not find it. He described those days as a thick, suffocating fog. He was only a teenager, yet he felt crushed by the weight of his own broken condition. He was a young man living in his Saturday.

You might wonder if God wants to speak to you in that same place on your Saturday. Yes, he has given you 7000 promises for your hard days. The God of the Bible is not absent on Saturdays.

He says in **Isaiah 43:2-3: “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned... For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”** When you pass through, not if. When. God does not promise to remove every Saturday from our lives. But He promises His presence inside of it. He is with you in the water. He is with you in the fire. And to those whose Saturday has reduced them to nothing but ashes, He speaks through the prophet Isaiah: **“To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.” Isaiah 61:3 (CSB).** Hold onto that today. A crown of beauty instead of ashes. That is a Saturday promise. He sees your ashes. He has not abandoned you in them. He is already preparing your crown.



But Saturday does not get the last word. Sunday is coming. Sunday is the day the power of death is removed and let you be free and joyful as promised by the word of God. On a cold January morning in 1850, young Charles Spurgeon was walking through a snowstorm in Colchester, England, when the weather forced him off his planned path. He ducked into a small Methodist chapel — nearly empty because of the storm. A simple lay preacher stood up and read from **Isaiah 45:22: “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the Earth. For I am God, and there is no other.”**

The message was plain. Almost too plain. He said, my dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says look. Looking doesn't take pain at all. Everybody can look. You don't need to go to college to look. The biggest fools can look. Anyone can look. Child can look. Bible says, look unto me. Not look unto yourself. There, you don't find any comfort. Jesus says look unto me.

But then the preacher noticed young Spurgeon sitting in the corner. And he pointed directly at him and said: "Young man, you look very miserable. You were miserable, you will be miserable, if you do not look at Jesus. Spurgeon described it as sudden, blazing light. His eyes were focused on Jesus crucified on the cross. At the moment, the depression, the weight, the suffocating fog lifted. In that moment, Jesus became real to him. How could it be simpler than to look to have eternal life?"



The same power that worked in Jesus at the tomb on Sunday, worked in the heart of Spurgeon's heart and life. Set a young man free. That is resurrection power. The same power that rolled away a stone and called a dead man back to life — that power can find you in your snowstorm. It can find you on your worst day. It can find you in your Saturday silence. Because Easter is not simply something that happened in history. It is a power that is active right now, this morning, in this room.

The angel's announcement to the women at the tomb was: "He is not here. He has risen." Present tense. Active. Alive. And this is the word of the Lord for every dead area you brought into this room today. He is still in the business of resurrection. Marriages that look like tombs. Addictions that have had people sealed inside for years. Faith that has gone cold. Dreams buried under layers of disappointment. None of these are beyond the reach of Sunday's power.

In that power of the Holy Spirit, you become a new human race because of the power of the blood changes your consciousness. You are no longer who you were. The Apostle Paul says it plainly in 2 Corinthians 5:17 — and I love how the Passion Translation renders this: "Now, if anyone is enfolded into Christ, he has become an entirely new creation. All that is related to the old order has vanished. Behold, everything is fresh and new."

Everything is fresh and new in Jesus' resurrection. Jesus was not simply resurrected back into the old world. He stepped out of that tomb as the first fruit of a new humanity — the beginning of a new race of people who carry resurrection life inside them. When you step into Christ, you become a new creation entirely, not an improved version of your old self. We are called to be people who carry Sunday into a world still stuck on Friday. Tremendous treasure is hidden in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Here is the invitation: **The resurrection power of Jesus Christ is for you right now in this place. The ancient creating power of God is creating and recreating, healing, renewing everything to those who receive this message into the heart like the young boy Spurgeon.**

Follow in Jesus' steps — through Friday with honesty, through Saturday with the promises of God, trusting that Sunday's freedom and joy is coming. It always comes. Sunday always wins.

Would you pray with me? Lord Jesus, you are alive. We declared it with confidence this morning. You rose from the dead and You are still in the business of raising dead things to life. For every person in this room carrying a Friday wound or Saturday silence. Meet them right now. Let Your resurrection power reach into every dead place. Make us new. Not just forgiven, but transformed — new creations, first fruits of the new humanity You are building. And for those who have never given You their story, today is a beautiful day to start. We look to You. We believe. In Your mighty name, Amen.