



**April 5, 2026**

**This is My Story, This is My Song**

**He Lives!**

1 Corinthians 15:1–8 (ESV)

**The Resurrection of Christ**

15 Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

*I serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today.  
I know that he is living; whatever men may say.  
I see his hand of mercy. I hear his voice of cheer,  
And just the time I need Him. He's always near.*

*He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.*

*He Lives! He Lives! Salvation to impart!*

*You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.*

How do I know that he lives?

I know he lives, because of the instant story.

- These lines are actually an early gospel summary used by the early church as they went out and shared the account of the life of Jesus.
- So where did these lines come from? They came from believers.
- Only 15-20 yrs after Jesus' death, Paul is writing down this already widely adopted gospel summary.
- That's the story from the very beginning. Jesus' death can't be just a legend.

I know he lives, because of a date for the story.

- This gospel summary that Paul passes on to us gives the resurrection a date.
- The resurrection took place on "*The third day.*"
- Now, if the resurrection is just an idea and a gushy feeling in my heart to move me to be a better person...then there's no reason for anyone to time stamp the resurrection.
- Jesus was dead and buried and gone...*but on the third day* he came back, alive forever.
- The resurrection is an event that is recorded in time, as if it is a real, literal resurrection. It has a date. It is etched in the calendar of eternity. Why? Because it really happened.

I know he lives, because of the people behind the story.

- Paul uses lots of ink here to list the people who saw a bodily resurrected Jesus after he died and was buried in a tomb. He writes that Jesus appeared... "to...Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve, after that to more than 500 people at the same time...and he says that most of these people are still living. Then to James, then to all of the Apostles, and then to me also (Paul)."
- If the resurrection were a hoax, now there are literally hundreds of people who would have to be in on the scheme.
- Here's what we know: that's implausible.
- The disciples are twelve powerless men, no status, who were facing not just embarrassment or political disgrace, but beatings, stonings, and execution.
- Yet, every single one of the disciples insisted, to their dying breaths, that they had physically seen Jesus bodily raised from the dead.
- ***Men will give their lives for something they believe to be true; they will never give their lives for something they know to be false.***
- Nothing less than a resurrected Jesus could have caused the first believers to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive and is Lord.

I know he lives, because of the person in the story.

- The spotlight in the summary is on Jesus. *“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures...”*
- Did you know that Jesus wasn’t the only one to claim he was the Messiah in the first century? There were many such men between 150BC and 150 AD. And most of them ended in the violent death of the founder.
- When this happened, the people who were following had two options: 1) Give up the movement. Or.. 2) Find themselves another Messiah. Sometimes a relative of the dead leader would be chosen to carry on the movement.
- Interesting side note: Jesus’ followers actually had this kind of option. James, Jesus’ brother, would have been a perfect candidate to continue the mission of Jesus. But no one ever even suggested it.
- In all these would-be Messiah cases, there’s not one we can point to where the disappointed followers start claiming that their hero had been raised from the dead.
- Except, that’s exactly what the followers of Jesus claim.
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- **They claim the tomb is empty. *He was raised.***
- **They claim Jesus is alive. *He appeared.***

Peter Williams helps us with a list:

The resurrected Jesus is recorded as appearing in Judea (Mt 28:9; Lk 24:31, 36) and in Galilee (Mt 28:16–20; Jn 21:1–23), in town (Lk 24:36) and countryside (Lk 24:15), indoors (Lk 24:36) and outdoors (Mt 28:9,16; Lk 24:15; Jn 21:1–23), in the morning (Jn 21:1–23) and the evening (Lk 24:29,36; Jn 20:19), by prior appointment (Mt 28:16) and without prior appointment (Mt 28:9; Lk 24:15,34,36; Jn 21:1–23), up close (Mt 28:9, 19; Lk 24:15,36; Jn 21:9–23) and at a distance (Jn 21:4–8), on a hill (Mt 28:16) and by a lake (Jn 21:4), to groups of men (Jn 21:2; 1 Cor 15:5,7) and groups of women (Mt 28:9), to individuals (Lk 24:34; 1 Cor 15:5,7–8) and groups of up to five hundred (1 Cor 15:6), sitting (Jn 21:15 implied), standing (Jn 21:4), walking (Lk 24:15; Jn 21:20–22), eating (Lk 24:43; Jn 21:15), and always talking (Mt 28:9–10, 18–20; Lk 24:17–30, 36–49; Jn 20:15–17, 19–29; 21:6–22).

The resurrection of Jesus is not just an idea, or a feeling, or an invention. The account was immediate, with a date, and people behind it. And at the center, there was a person in the story. A person rooted in history. A person who did real work with real blood to win us back to God. A person who defeated death to prove it’s true. A person who lives.

- And because He lives in you...you will live too.

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!*

*The hope of all who seek Him, The help of all who find,  
None other is so loving, So good and kind.*

*He Lives! He Lives! Christ Jesus lives today!  
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.  
He Lives! He Lives! Salvation to impart!  
You ask me how I know He lives: He lives within my heart.*