

THE POWER OF RESURRECTION!

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Father, we just want to thank You, we just want to praise You Lord for today, the Resurrection Sunday. Of all the days in the calendar, this is the most important day Lord. We just want to thank You, thank You, thank You Father, thank You. I pray Father, today as we look into Your Word, You would speak to us and You would show us what resurrection means to every child of God, that how short of that resurrection we live our daily lives, and what God has made possible for his children by raising Jesus from the dead. Open our eyes as the apostle prayed, open our eyes. Give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, O' Father. We need it more than ever in our lives. Lord speak to us. To that end we commit ourselves: Hearing ears, an understanding mind, a believing heart and the will to obey, is what we seek, and we offer. For in Jesus' name we pray. Amen. Amen.

The resurrection. C.S Lewis said, 'It is the central event in human history. You remove resurrection from Christianity, you do not have Christianity. Christianity is built entirely on the resurrection. There are other parts yet if you take resurrection out, Christianity falls apart. Judaism can stand on the Ten Commandments. Christianity stands on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus banked His entire life and preaching, His ministry, on the resurrection. That was one sign that He gave- the sign of Jonah. Three days and three nights, the Son of man will be in the belly of the earth, then He will rise and that was what the disciples struggled most with.

Please remember, if we are saved and we are seated here, it's because of the resurrection. Yes, good Friday is important, the second most important day. He came, He died, but if He did not rise from the dead, it still would not have any meaning. Still would not have made any difference. So first, we look if Christ is not risen.

1 Corinthians 15:14-15

¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. ¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

"If Christ is not risen", then my preaching is empty. It's a waste of time. My preaching is empty and your faith is in vain. You only will have a good lunch, but the rest of it is all pointless. All our songs, our prayers, everything we do is of no avail.

My preaching is empty, your faith is empty, if Christ is not risen. If the preaching of the Word of God is the power of God unto salvation, it is through the preaching, and it's because Christ has risen. Christ is not risen, every preaching of the Word is just empty.

And people who gather in churches are wasting their time. They're wasting their time. Our faith also is empty.

Now verse 15, second thing.

1 Corinthians 15:15

¹⁵ Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

But if Jesus did not rise, all of us are false witnesses. If Jesus is not risen from the dead, our preaching is empty, our faith is empty. You know what we are all, we are all false witnesses. What do we say, 'Christ in me'. But how can He be, if He did not rise from the dead? We are all false witnesses, if Christ has not risen from the dead.

Third one 17,

1 Corinthians 15:17

¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Can you see the implications of resurrection Sunday, if Jesus did not rise from the dead? You know what, we are dead in our sins. Our faith is futile. We will all have to account for our sins, and the wages of sin is death. Our faith is futile, and

we are all in our sins. You may feel good and forgiven, but you are not forgiven. Every sin will be counted. It will have to be accounted for. We are destined for destruction if Christ is not risen.

And verse 18,

1 Corinthians 15:18

¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

What about all the loved ones we saw? What about my father who believed in Christ two days before he died? And all the others, so many millions who put their trust in Christ and they died. You know what, they have perished, if Christ is not risen. We take sometimes the resurrection for granted. But we don't understand the implications of resurrection. If resurrection did not take place, if Christ is not risen from the dead, everyone who believed in Him, and fell asleep in Christ, have actually perished. They're gone. They are done. They are doomed.

And verse 19,

1 Corinthians 15:19

¹⁹ If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

If Christ is not risen from the dead, and we put our trust in Him; but He is not risen from the dead, of all the people in the world, we are the most pitiable. Most pitiable. So we need to look at how much hangs on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's why, as C.S Lewis said,

'The central event of Christianity is not the teachings of Jesus Christ, not even death of Jesus Christ, very close, but it is the resurrection of Jesus Christ'. And for 40 days, after He rose for 40 days, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Only to the disciples. He never appeared to somebody who did not believe in Him. He appeared only to his disciples, to prove the resurrection. And then they went out. On the day of Pentecost, 10 days after He rose, He received the power, and He went. They went out. You know what they preached? They preached the resurrection. That was what was upsetting everybody. Jerusalem was upset because they preached the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let's look at the first message that was preached. In Acts chapter 2, verses 22 onwards,

Acts 2:22-25

²² "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. ²⁵ For David says concerning Him: 'I foresaw the LORD always before my face, For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken.

So He is going now to the psalms and David's psalm. But David was not talking about himself, he was talking about Jesus

Acts 2:26

²⁶ Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope.

What is that, yeah,

Acts 2:27-28

²⁷ For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. ²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

So David was not talking about David. He was talking about Jesus Christ. And Paul is going to Psalm 16 and talking about the resurrection. and further, yeah, verse 29:

Acts 2:29-36

²⁹ "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, ³¹ he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. ³² This

Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

³⁴ *“For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand,*

³⁵ *Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’ ³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”*

That was when they were cut to the heart because he was not preaching about a crucified Christ. He was preaching about a risen Christ. From Acts chapter 2, from the first message, the message is about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, because it changes everything. It changes everything. The dead Jesus does not change anything. It's the risen Jesus that changes everything. Like I have preached before, you can take the founder of any religion. Buddha. Buddha's dead. It doesn't change Buddhism. Buddhism is a set of teachings. Muhammad is dead, right. Moses who brought the law is dead. David is dead. All the founders of all religions are dead, **but Christ is not dead**. And if Christ is dead, Christianity is dead. Christianity is dead. Christianity rests on the life, the birth, the life, the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's not resting on the teachings. Teachings comes only after that. He's not a teacher. he's not a teacher. he's a Savior. All the founders of religion were teachers. Jesus also is a teacher, but He's not primarily a teacher. He's our Savior. So we ignore the resurrection only at our own peril. In Acts chapter 5 you will see again, verse 27 to 30.

Acts 5: 27-30

²⁷ *And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest asked them (This is Peter and John), ²⁸ saying, “Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man’s blood on us!”²⁹ But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.*

What gave them the courage to preach in spite of the warnings from the high priest and the Sanhedrin? Because Jesus was risen. Jesus was risen. He said, you hung him, you killed him, but God raised him up. So whether it was in the public square, whether it was before the Sanhedrin, what they preached was the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It was a great Chinese saint Watchman Nee who said, ‘Our old history ends with the Cross and our new history begins with the resurrection’. Take resurrection out, we won't be even sitting here. So what does resurrection do for us? What does it do for us. Okay. We have to understand the fundamental principle. Go back to Acts 5 verse 30 and verse 31.

Acts 5: 30-31

³⁰ *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. ³¹ Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.*

The first thing that God does because Jesus is risen from the dead- He gives us the gift of repentance. There's a repentance in the Old Testament and there's a repentance in the New Covenant which are completely different. They are not the same. They are not the same. The repentance in the New Covenant is different, because this is a repentance that is granted. The other one, it was primarily only a change of mind. But the Old Covenant people did not have the power to change their lives. The New Covenant repentance, the gift of repentance is a gift given by God to everyone because Jesus rose from the dead. A changed life. A new life, completely new life is possible because of the resurrection. That is why those who were baptized went through John's baptism and it was only a preparation to receive the resurrection life. So when Paul goes to Ephesus when he sees that they have not received the Holy Spirit. He asks, “Whose baptism did you receive?” They said, “John's.” But that baptism was a baptism of repentance, and it is not the same repentance which God offers because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's a completely new life. It is different. It changes our life. If you turn with me to Acts chapter 3 and verse 26,

Acts 3:26

²⁶ *To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”*

How does the resurrection come together? You see God raised him up and we have been given the power to turn away from our iniquities which they did not have in the Old Covenant. They did not have in the Old Covenant. You understand

the privilege of the New Covenant people - what the resurrection does. It gives us the gift of repentance. Second, Romans 4:25

Romans 4:25

²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

It is the resurrection of Jesus Christ that justifies us. If He is not risen, we are not justified. **Justified** means **just as if we never sinned**. It is not the death. It is the resurrection. He was offered for, delivered for our offenses. But we are not justified by the Cross. We are justified by the resurrection when you stand before God. Otherwise, everyone will stand like a forgiven sinner. But because of the resurrection we stand before God not as a forgiven sinner, but as a saint. Not just as a forgiven sinner. That was there in the Old Covenant. But we are seen as saints because of the resurrection. We are justified. Because it's a huge word- justified means, just as if we never sinned, meaning we have now peace with God. That is the next verse.

Romans 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Faith in what? Faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. So first we are given the gift of repentance because of resurrection. The gift of repentance, a completely different repentance. The power for a new life. Second, we are justified before God because of the resurrection and we have peace with God. Okay. And what's the proof, that he is risen. He is not dead. Third,

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

So now when we live, unlike the old generation, old covenant people, they were not very sure. They were not sure. They had no clue. Okay. But we have a living hope. We don't have a dead hope. Our hope is living, meaning, if somebody who is saved were to fall dead now, even while you are living you know where you are going. It's a living hope. Why? Because Jesus rose from the dead, we know we will also rise from the dead. In the Old Covenant, Elijah and Elisha brought a few people back to life. But they all died. They all died. Nobody rose from the dead never to die again. Only Jesus. And because Jesus rose from the dead, because of His resurrection, we have been begotten or we have been birthed into a living hope.

You have to visit funerals, then only you will understand how important this is. How important it is. All you see in funerals is hopelessness. Hopelessness. But when saints die they have a living hope. There is no fear. You don't see Stephen fearing death. He's praying for his accusers. You don't see Paul defeated in prison, waiting for execution. Scripture says, he says (i.e. Paul), 'I have finished my race'. You don't see Peter, in *2 Peter*, depressed. He says, "It's time for me to put this tent off." You don't see Peter in prison agitated because he's set for execution the next day. He's sleeping peacefully. Yet you see people in the Old Covenant die. They weren't sure. The last words of Solomon in Ecclesiastic, it's not a very comforting. This is the end of this fear God and keep his commandments. You don't see this living hope in them. We should have that, because Christ is risen. New birth is not something you do. Begotten. New birth is something God does in us. It's a result of the resurrection.

Ephesians 2:5-6

⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Even when we were dead in trespasses, we were dead in our sins. What did God do? He made us alive together with Christ. When Christ rose from the dead, we all rose from the dead with Him and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Everyone who saved from the first day till the last day is already in Christ, that's how the Father sees. You know why, because when the Head rose, the body rose with it. That's why God said of all born of women in the Old Covenant the greatest was John. But the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than him. That's why you see the depression of John the Baptist in prison and the excitement of Paul and Silas in prison are

completely different. You will ask, why is it so different? Why is John so depressed in prison and why are Paul and Silas singing in prison? It's because the resurrection changes everything. It changed everything. It's a resurrection that changed everything. If the resurrection hadn't taken place, Paul and Silas also would be wondering what is this happening. What a waste. Did he really die for us? Is this worth anything? But you see, you don't see that in the New Covenant in these saints, because the resurrection was a living thing for them, and Christ in them was living. The fourth thing, the blood of Jesus.

Hebrews 9:7

⁷ But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

We know every year on the day of atonement, in the Old Covenant, the high priest went into the holy of holies. He went with the blood for himself, for the nation, he sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat and fearfully he came out. Every year he had to go in, but in verse 11 and 12 you will see,

Hebrews 9:11-12

¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

Because He rose from the dead, He ascended into Heaven with His own blood. If He had not risen, the Old Covenant thing would be still continuing. Still continue. Every year you have to go through the Passover. You have to go through the atonement. You have to go through peace offerings. Blood would be flowing like a river still. You know why it all stopped? Because He rose from the dead. He rose from the dead. And He did not go with the blood of goats and bulls. He went with His own blood. We think the blood fell down and dried on the ground. No, the blood was collected. It was collected by the angels. It was kept and the blood was taken. Because He rose, what did He obtain? He obtained eternal redemption. For them it lasted only one year. One year guarantee only.

Now you buy stuff you get one year guarantee. Only one year guarantee, the blood of goats and calves at only one year. Next year again, the high priest has to go. But when Jesus went in, it is not one year. It is eternal redemption. You know why He could go in? Because He rose from the dead. If He had not risen from the dead, we would not have obtained eternal life.

That is why we have this eternal security of salvation. They did not have. They did not have. We have. How can you have eternal security? Because He went in to the holy of holies. He rose from the dead. He took His own precious blood, He sprinkled on the mercy seat, in Heaven, and the Father is satisfied. The Father is satisfied. So Jesus rose from the dead and therefore the blood was taken into the holy of holies, and that blood obtains an eternal redemption.

The fifth thing,

1 Timothy 2:5

⁵ For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

You know the cry in the book of Job. He said, 'I looked for somebody, somebody, who'd plead with God for me.' That was hHis cry. This is the cry of God. Who can plead with God and at the same time who can understand man? One man. Jesus Christ. He's the Mediator between man and God, and He's the Mediator between God and man. Why? Because He rose from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, we have no mediator. We have nobody to speak for us. Nobody.

Hebrews 12:24

²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

He's the Mediator. He speaks for us and His blood speaks for us.

Romans 8:34

³⁴ Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

The reality of it, we are all sitting over here. I'm preaching from here but Christ is seated on the right hand of the side of God and interceding for us. You know why He is interceding for us? Because He's risen. We have a Mediator. We have an Intercessor. We have somebody who mediates between God and man, who speaks to God on behalf of man and speaks to man on behalf of God. We have a Mediator. And He's just not a Mediator, He's an Intercessor. He intercedes for us. Think about all these things. What if Jesus is not risen? Who speaks for us? Why are we not consumed? Why have we not consumed? Why have we not destroyed like Israel was? Why? Because there's somebody standing in between. Somebody is standing in between. And He's not a dead Jesus. It's a risen Jesus. He mediates for us. He intercedes for us, who wants to save us continuously.

Romans 5:10

¹⁰ For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

His death brought reconciliation. His life, his resurrection, brings salvation. Continuously. His life. Life means His resurrection. He is resurrected. Therefore it saves.

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Think about it. Think about it. He's forever living to make intercession for us. The result of resurrection. If there is no resurrection, there is nobody speaking for us. There is nobody who is able to save us. He is able to save to the uttermost. The high priest couldn't save anybody. He couldn't save anybody. You couldn't even meet the high priest in the Old Covenant. Okay. First, he had to save himself. He had to offer blood for himself. He was powerless, but we have a living High Priest. If we go to Him, He will save us. How much will He save us? He will save us to the uttermost. You know why? Because He rose from the dead. Sixth thing,

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Let me tell you, he's not in the grave. Otherwise we'll all end up in the grave with him. Because He rose, He's preparing a place for His people. We are not going to an unprepared place, we are going to a prepared place and He calls it mansions. We're going to a prepared place. Know. Most of us sitting over here, we don't own house of our own. Most people sitting here or maybe everybody's sitting here don't own a house in which we stay. Everybody who live in rented places show your hands. See, everybody lives in rented places. I will tell you one thing, because He rose, you will not be living in rented apartments in Heaven. All of us will have only one landlord, and He will be our Father. You know why, that is that is why they were able to look at life and the problems of life as momentary afflictions. They knew this is nothing. This is nothing. What was coming in, coming in.

Old Covenant, no. They wanted to live. They wanted to live as long as possible because after death it was a vacuum. They did not know, they wanted to be buried in a particular place. They were all worried about all those things. New Covenant everything changed. People are not worried about life. They're always looking forward to the other side. You know why, because He has risen. I hope so. Because the other life was the interesting part. Because you know why, because He rose from the dead. If He did not rise from the dead, then everything else is said is false. You don't have to take it. It doesn't mean anything else. It doesn't mean anything. But if He rose from the dead, then every word He said is true. Every word He said is true. He says, "I go to prepare a place where I am."

Do you know that no person of any religion has that hope. They don't have that hope. There's no hope, ask a Hindu, what's your hope? Migration. Keep on migrating. Because you know why, why is it that there is no hope there? Because you do not have resurrection there. You have no atonement for your sins there. You have to atone for your sins yourself. That's why there is no hope. You have to atone. And you know, religion and what you believe, will frame your thinking.

Frame your thinking. Like you see, who runs orphanages in India, until recently? Christians. The mindset of an average Hindu, he's not bothered about the orphans, the crippled, the lame, the beggars. You know Why? because their mindset said it is karma. You deserve it. And if by helping them you may be harming them. He has to live out his karma. In Islam, if there is a resurrection, it is only for men. I don't hear what happens to women in Islam. Think about it. Buddhism, know, again migration, migration, migration, migration, migration. I used to talk to my Buddhist friends and this is what they say, 'our desire is that after migrating so many times, one time I will become a lama. End up higher, higher and become a lama'. I said, when you go to the market you see what the lamas do right. Because it's full of lamas. Not llamas. Lamas. And they're standing there drunk with one bottle in hand. I said, if that is what you're hoping for after many thousands of migrations, then what is your hope?

That's a question we need to ask. If Christ is not risen from the dead, then everything that we preach and say and believe is futile. We are just like them. People without hope. Without hope. No hope. No. But if Christ is risen from the dead, we are people who are not afraid of death. And every man on earth is afraid of death. We are not afraid of death. Why? Because He rose from the dead. Because. Buddha didn't rise from the dead. Muhammad didn't rise from the dead. No saint, preacher in Hinduism rose from the dead. You go to different parts- Sri Lanka, Thailand, different, different places. You will see different body parts of buddha kept there and big tombs built over it. The tomb of Muhammad is also there. It's only one tomb that is empty. It's the tomb of Christ. Every founder of every religion is still buried. Christ is not.

So we need to realize we are not following a religion. Don't you ever follow the religion called Christianity. You are following a living Person. He is alive, and He is seated on the right hand side of the Father. That is why it is because Christ rose from the dead, Friday became a Good Friday. Otherwise it would be a bad Friday. It would be an evil Friday. It would have been a sad Friday. But no, it's not a sad Friday, it's a good Friday. You know why it's a good Friday? It's because He rose from the dead. He became atonement for our sins and because He rose, we have hope. So if Christ rose from the dead, then what is my response? What is your response? What should be our response?

Ephesians 1: 17-20

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

What is he saying? What is Paul saying? Paul says, remember this is the prayer we used to pray every Sunday for years together in our beginning years. He says this is my prayer, that our eyes should be open to the resurrection power. What raised Jesus from the dead is the same power that birthed us in Jesus Christ. Would you please ask God to open our eyes to know what is available to us inside, the resurrection power. You know, you could have a million dollars in the bank, but if you do not know you have it, it is worth nothing. It's worth nothing. Or you could have a child here. Let us say small child, sleeping children are over. Let us say Divinia. The little one. One year old. She's got a million dollars in our bank, and she has no clue what money is and what to do with it. It is useless.

So we need to understand this is what Paul, why was God able to use this man more than any living man? It is simply because He understood the power of resurrection. He understood the power of resurrection. Most people understand the death of Jesus Christ. He died on the Cross, and they say, "Lord thank You Lord, thank You, I am forgiven." That's all they know. They don't know the other side. The resurrection power of Christ Jesus. That is his prayer, that we would know, that we would know- this incredible power towards us. What is that power? The same power that raised Jesus up from the dead. The greatest act of God ever, from creation till the end, the greatest act of God was raising Jesus from the dead. We think it's creation, no. It is not creation. The greatest act of God is raising Jesus from the dead because when Jesus rose from the dead, everybody rises from the dead, those who believe in Him. Everybody. All of satan's plans were foiled, by the resurrection.

Romans 8: 11

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, the Spirit and His power, He says that the same Spirit dwells in us. It's no difference. You know what we have. See, that's why we are called more than conquerors. You need to understand the term. You are more than conquerors. I heard an old-time pastor describe and "more than conquerors". He says, there was his prize champion. He was in the ring. And the rounds went to eight rounds, ten rounds, and ultimately He won. By the time he has won, he's bruised, he's battered, he's bleeding, but he's the champion. He gets the belt and he gets a cheque for a million dollars. And then he goes home, takes the belt, puts it around his wife's neck and gives her the cheque of a million dollars. And the pastor says, he was the conqueror, she is more than a conqueror. She didn't have to fight at all, but she got the crown and the cheque. That's exactly what we are called for. Did we fight death? No. Did we fight the devil? No. Did we fight sin? No. He did. Then He takes it and puts it around our neck and says, "You are all more than conquerors in Me. I did it for you."

That is what is available to us. Let me tell you a simple truth. When Jesus came in the flesh and we in the flesh, we are more blessed than Jesus, in the flesh. He had to fight everyday of His life. We don't have to. He fought for us. He had to fight, win every day, die on the Cross, then has to be raised from the ground by the Spirit and then He gives us that Spirit. People do not understand what salvation means, and we live defeated lives because we do not understand the power of resurrection. And that's what he was talking about. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, He dwells in us. He who raised from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you . You know what He says? You can live victorious because it's the same Spirit. Jesus was the Conqueror. The Church is more than a conqueror. Conqueror. Because He took His victory and gave it to us. He gave it to us. So there is the Person. The Person of the Holy Spirit is released to us, because Jesus rose from the dead. And there is the power.

2 Peter 1: 3

³ as His divine power (that's the resurrection power) has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness,

He has given to us all things. That's what I said. You could have a million dollars in the bank and not know about it. You say, "Lord!" God says, "You don't need one more thing to be victorious in your life. I have already given it to you. What is that? I've given you My Spirit and the power of My Spirit. I've given you My Spirit and I've given you the power of My Spirit. Just listen to Him. Use that power. Everything that you need for life and godliness is given." Why? Because He rose from the dead. These are the benefits of resurrection.

Ephesians 4:24

²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

Read that verse once again. What are the two primary characteristics of God? God is holy. God is righteous. And the new man in you and me, because of the resurrection power of Christ is made exactly in the holiness and the righteousness of God. When the devil said, "If you eat of this fruit you will become like God," it was a lie. But we have become like God when we are born again by the same Spirit, in true righteousness and in true holiness. You know why? Because He rose from the dead. For every born-again child of God when God looks into you and sees that born-again person in you, He doesn't see any guilt. He doesn't see any guilt. He sees your true holiness and true righteousness because you're birthed by the Spirit of God. That is why 1 John chapter 3 will say, the one who is born from God cannot sin. Cannot. It's the old man who sins. It's the only thing God tells is, put the old man to death. The new born again man cannot sin. Cannot sin. It's impossible for him to sin. He cannot be unrighteous. He cannot be unholy. Because he has been created according to God in true righteousness and true holiness.

And if we understand the power of resurrection and allow that Person to keep growing, and use the same power of resurrection to put to death the other person. One, to death the old person and allow the new person to keep growing. God says, you know what, "You are good. Good. You're seated with My Son on His throne." That is the power created to be like God. Like God. Remember the two things about God more than anything else. He is holy. He is righteous. He is holy. He is righteous. What did the resurrection power of God do? What is the Spirit who rose Jesus from the dead do when we believed in Jesus Christ? You know what He did? He created a new man inside, in true righteousness and true holiness. What is that? The righteousness of God. The holiness of God. Think about it. This is what all the saints of the Old Covenant dreamed of, not possible. It was not possible for them. Why? Christ did not rise for them. Christ rose for us. Not possible. So don't discount resurrection Sunday. Don't discount what happened on resurrection.

Third thing,

Romans 8: 29

(what does the resurrection do)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

God made a decision. Everyone who is born again ultimately will be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. And if you look at

2 Corinthians 3: 18

¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image...

We may not see it. Because it's happening inside. All we look in the mirror is that we are growing older. But what is happening inside, nobody is growing older inside. Everybody is changing in the glory of Christ. From glory to glory to glory to glory we are being changed. You know why? Because he rose from the dead. It's a result of the resurrection. The result of the resurrection. That is what is happening. We are being transformed into what image, same image. Same image of what? The image of Christ. He's the firstborn. Everybody who is born of the same Spirit is being changed inside. We don't see it but one day we will see it. That's why we are called treasures in earthen vessels. It's being changed. We are being changed. And that's why, we are able from '*glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*' (2 Corinthians 3:18). It is the Spirit of God who is doing that work. Why was the Spirit released? Because Christ rose from the dead and Christ was glorified and the Spirit was released. Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ what are we given,

Acts 1:8

⁸ you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be

What? What are we witnesses of? His resurrection. His resurrection. That's why we need to understand. What do we witness? What is our life witness? Why do we not react like others when we go through trials and testings and tragedies? It is simply because of the resurrection. That is our witness. Why? Because of His resurrection, we are witnesses of His resurrection. Because if He rose from the dead, He's seated on high, He's preparing a place for us, death has been overcome, then meaning of life has changed. That is why the Bible says, when Paul and Silas were taken, stripped, beaten, thrown into the prison at the midnight hour, they were singing, and the Bible says that all the captives were listening. Everybody was listening. What were they listening? They were listening to the resurrection power of Christ. They were listening. That's why when you go to your offices and your workplaces and all, everybody sitting around has their problems and their issues and when they're discussing it to you, your response is different. You know why? You're witnessing to the resurrection power of Christ. They will ask, "You have no problems?" You say, "I have more." Then why do you react like that? "It's because He is alive, and He's alive in me." It's not that we don't have less problems. Christians may have more problems. You know why, because we can handle it.

You should say, the gentiles should have less problems O' Lord because they do not have the resurrection power. They do not have the resurrection power. Remember the old days when these ACs were put, it blew off. Because the system did not have the capacity to handle five ACs of two ton each. It blew off. Gentiles blow off, when they have troubles because they do not have the power. And what is the solution to troubles? It is always money. If I have money, right, I can handle it. But what is the first statement the disciples make? Gold and silver we do not have. But what we have? What is that they have? The resurrection power.

What gold and money could not buy, could not buy resurrection power does. It heals and if you die, it resurrects. So either way we are not afraid of sickness. Your sickness we believe. By His stripes we are healed. And on the other hand you are not healed, you die, we are still not bothered, because we know, we do not die. Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, he does not die. Even if he dies, he lives.

Let me ask you, where can you get a deal like that in life? Think about it. Which religion offers you that? Which god offers you that deal? Living, you are victorious. Dead you're victorious. In English we say, heads I win, tails you lose. God has given a deal to His people that is no way you can lose in life. No way we can lose in life. You know why, because of the resurrection, because He rose from the dead. Not because He died on the Cross, but because He rose. The death on the Cross had its own benefits and blessings but it would have still stopped when we died. You would be healed,

because of His stripes but you, when you die you die. You never rise again. That's why it says if only in this life you have hope in Christ. You can have hope in Christ in this life. That is before resurrection. Up to Good Friday. The benefits still good Friday. After that benefits it's gone. He died, if He didn't rise. We die, we also don't rise. The most pitiable. But because He rose, because He rose. So what happens? We have power. He gives us the power. Power for what? To be His witnesses.

2 Corinthians 5:19-20

¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

What have we become? What did the resurrection make us all? It made us all ambassadors. What is the purpose of an ambassador? The purpose of an ambassador is to bring ties between two countries to the best possible. The ambassador of any country to India, his job is to see that his country and India have a very good deal. Best interest. That's what our job is. Why? Because he is risen. Because he arose and he first reconciled us to God. Now he sends us as his witnesses with the resurrection power. Okay. The ambassadors have power. You know. Ambassadors have power. They cannot be touched. They cannot be arrested. They have got what is called diplomatic immunity. Diplomatic immunity. When it comes to powers of darkness, spiritual forces of wickedness we have diplomatic immunity. If you believe, they cannot touch you. They cannot touch you. Because we have immunity. Not with flesh and blood. That's why the Bible says, we do not fight flesh and blood. We are fighting powers of darkness. They cannot do anything to us, if you believe. They cannot do anything to us because we are ambassadors of God in this world we have the power of the Kingdom, for what? To reconcile others to Christ. We are His witnesses. But where does the power come from? The power comes from resurrection.

Philippians 2:5

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross (that's up to Good Friday). ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him (He lifted Him up. He resurrected him. Not only resurrected Him, lifted Him up) and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What does it mean? It means Christ was given a name after the resurrection. Because of the resurrection, He has been given the name above every other name. Because He's risen. Not because He died. If He had just died and not risen, He wouldn't have got a name. He's risen, so He has been given the name above every other name. How does it affect us?

Matthew 28: 18

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

You know why? Because He rose from the dead, He overcame sin, He overcame death. He rose from the dead. His name is the highest name in Heaven. All authority and power is given to Him, and in His name we are sent out as ambassadors. The name behind our going forth is the highest name in the heavens and on earth. Understand what the resurrection does.

Mark 16:17-18

¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe : In My name (what did the resurrection do to Jesus? It gave Him a name about every other name. All authority and power on Heaven and earth is given to Him to His name and He has given us His name and He says) In My name they will cast out demons (not that demons will harass you; but you will cast out demons, you have been given power, why, because of the resurrection) they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

And you have to believe. How can you drink something and not be harmed? Somebody poisons you but you don't die. You know why? Because inside is resurrection power. The power that overcame death. What is the purpose of poison? To kill you. But what is the power inside? It overcomes death. God said that this will only follow those who believe, and our entire issue is with believing. That's why everybody is sitting still and nobody is excited. If you were excited, you wouldn't be sitting like this. If I were to tell you that Monday the 5th of April, go check your bank balance. I heard everybody is going to get 10 lakhs in your bank. Everybody will be jumping, "Ah! Hallelujah!" They'll be checking, scrolling through the account. I'm telling you this is honestly the problem with Christians. How we think just like the world if somebody were to give you money. Big amount comes into account we get so excited.

Here, God has given us the resurrection power, the greatest power. The power that raised His Son from the dead, seated Him on the Throne. He has given us His name. He has given us His authority. Nobody is excited. Nobody is excited. At the end of the day question is, kuch milega (Will I get anything)? Think about it from what more can God give? What more? But this is our issue, right.

Luke 10:19

¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The entire Old Covenant and the entire gentile world their testimony is harassment by demons, controlled by demons, oppression by demons. What does God give us? The resurrection power to trample upon them. You tell the devil, you have only one place in my life- it is under my feet. You have no other place. That's what the resurrection power does. Where do you belong? Under my shoes. Stay there. Stay there. This is what the resurrection does. So what is our issue? What is our issue? The same issue they all struggled with. Go to Mark chapter 16. Mark chapter 16 verses 9 onwards, okay. This is his resurrection Sunday morning.

Mark 16:9-11

⁹ Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. ¹¹ And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.

They're still mourning and weeping. A lot of Christians are still mourning and weeping. Lord! What is happening Lord? They are like Jacob. Remember Jacob's sons brought his coat and said, "Daddy is this your son's? We found it with blood." "Oh my son is dead! I don't want to live anymore." He then got into his bed, pulled the blanket over his head and says, "All I want to do is die. Is Joseph dead?" He's on the way to becoming a king. Father is acting as if he's dead and that's how Christians live. We sing, "Jesus is alive, alive, alive forever," but we live like He's dead. We sing alive, we live dead. Why? Because we really truly do not believe. Our struggle is with belief. That is why Jesus says, "All things are possible to him or her who believes." Believe. And that's why we have to meditate upon the Word of God. "Meditate upon My Word." The Person becomes alive. We're not memorizing Scripture. We should memorize scriptures. But we are not memorizing scriptures. We are living with a Person who is in the scriptures. A living Person.

Right? When you get letters, you get a mail from somebody, you know somebody you love when you are reading the letter, you're not looking at the words. You're looking at the voice of the person. Isn't it? It's the voice of the person. It's a person that. We don't read all mails. We get so much in our junk folder. Do we read all that? They come in to our mails but they don't mean anything to us. But if it is from a person who means something to us, we read that mail. See, both mails, in the junk folder and your personal folder, both are written in English. The words may be identical. The response is different. But this person is living. This person is living. This person means to something to us. The words mean something to us. It strikes a chord in us. Now because a Person (Jesus) is living and the Person means something to us, until this Person becomes living, this Word of God is not going to work in us. It's not going to work in us. When is it going to work to us is, when the Person becomes personal and alive to us. That is why Jesus asked them, "You search the scriptures, what are you searching for? What are you searching for? The scriptures speak about Me."

We saw when we began today's session we began from Acts chapter 2.

What is actual chapter 2 the first sermon from Peter about? It's about David. What was David seeing? David was understanding the promise of God in a vision, that there would be a Seed from his body who would be on the throne of

David forever. He saw Christ. When Jesus said, "Abraham rejoiced to see My day," what did Abraham see? He saw Christ. Why did they see Christ? They did not see Christ crucified. They saw Christ seated on the Throne. That is why the crucifixion was missed by the Old Covenant saints, because God did not show it to them. He only showed the resurrected Christ to them. They never saw the crucifixion. They never understood the crucifixion. Abraham did not understand the crucifixion. David did not understand the crucifixion. None of the prophets understood the crucifixion, but they understood one thing- the Son of God is seated on the right hand side of the Father. His body did not go through corruption. They know that He is alive and He's seated on the Throne. But how much for us who live on this side of the Cross, this side of the crucifixion, this side of the resurrection. God says, "Do you believe?" Because what happened, they did not, they did not believe. And go further .

Mark 16:12

¹² After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country.

This is the road to Emmaus, remember?

Mark 16:13

¹³ And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either.

See, from the beginning there was an issue. People struggled with the resurrection, though He appeared to them. So what changed? Pentecost changed. Pentecost changed them, because the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, the same Person who raised Jesus from the dead, came to live in them. The same Spirit. Without the Spirit you cannot actually, with conviction and reality, say, 'Abba Father.' When the Spirit is within you, you say, 'Abba Father,' you know why, because you know He is risen and it's the same Spirit in you. That is the difference. The same Spirit. The resurrection changed everything.

Mark 16:13-14

¹³ And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. ¹⁴ Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart

Even today, if God is rebuking you, He is rebuking our unbelief and hardness of heart. Hardness of heart. Let me tell you one thing, there is nothing more God will do, nothing. There is nothing more God will do. Everything that can be done is already done, and God doesn't have to do one more thing for anybody. Sin has been taken care of. Death has been overcome victoriously. You have been born by the Spirit and the resurrection power is given. Nothing more God has to do. Everything. That is why it is written, *He has given all things*, not that He will give, but already given all things, *pertaining to life and godliness*. His divine power. What is that power? That's a resurrection power. And what are we supposed to do? Discover it, know that Person, allow the Person more and more control each day. Surrender to that Person. Surrender to that power and live without fear. Why? What is man's great fear? How did the devil hold everybody, that's Hebrews 2:14.

How did he hold everybody captive with the fear of death? The fear, why is covid creating so much fear? It's only because of death. That's why they have to keep that fear of wasting casualty rates, casualty rates, casualty rates. If everybody got COVID and nobody died, there is no fear. No fear, it is the death that comes through covid that creates this fear. One, because it's easily transmitted. Second, it can become fatal. It causes fear. What does it say?

Hebrews 2: 14

¹⁴ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Why are we in bondage? Because we fear death. We fear death. Why don't people get married, those who don't get married? Because they're afraid. If I get married, my marriage may fail. You can bring fear of death into almost everything. How it cripples you. Fear of death into everything. You know what, you have, you know how you overcome, you have to bring the resurrection power into everything and you overcome fear. Anything can be resurrected. If anything is of God, it can be resurrected. That is why Jesus went around saying, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." Anything can be resurrected. A lot of people have given up on their careers. They say, "I can't do anything better than

this." You know why, because you have given up. You have to bring the resurrection into it, into your life, into your home, into your career, into everything. You have to bring the resurrection power. What is resurrection? It brings something that is dead back to life. But be sure it is from God. Don't take something that is ungodly and try to put resurrection power. All you will get is fire. It will consume you. Don't do that. Be very sure it is of God and apply the power of God into it.

Like I said, we are the most blessed people on earth. Most blessed people on earth, because both sides of life has been taken care of. In this life, everything that is pertaining to life, His divine power has given. To that side everything pertaining to godliness has been given to us. True righteousness and true holiness. Everything has been taken care of and yet people live with these long faces. The only thing that excites them is death. Why did I say that? Only thing that excites them is death. What is death? The world is dead. Sentence has already been passed on this world. Execution date is coming. This world will not go to an electric chair. It will be thrown into the furnace. It will be burned. And we are excited by death and we are not excited by the resurrection life. That's our problem. We are excited by death. If the ruler of the world already has been judged, the world is already judged. So sentence has to be carried out. Sentence also is already pronounced. What is that? It will be burnt like in a furnace. Why do we get so excited about sports than Christ? Because we are dead. Shopping than Christ. Because we are dead. God is not saying that you shouldn't do this thing, but if you see the excitement levels with these things and the lack of excitement with Christ, it's because we are dead or our eyes are not open. We are alive inside, but we are babies. Babies. You pick any baby sitting over here. Give them a balloon and a 2,000 rupees note. They will go for the balloon. Straight away go for the balloon, because the baby does not know with this two thousand rupees you can buy two thousand balloons. Does not know and that's our problem.

Power is there, the Spirit is there, but our eyes are not opened. That is why Paul says, this is what I pray Lord, open our eyes. Open our eyes. The question today before communion is this - do we believe? What do we believe? How did we get saved? The most fundamental statement in the Bible about salvation.

Romans 10:9

⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

What? *That God has raised Him from the dead* (Rom 10:9) that God, you don't believe in the resurrection, you cannot be saved. Cannot be saved. It's impossible to be saved, if you don't believe in the resurrection. If you believe in your heart, if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him up from the dead, meaning you have to believe in your heart. If you believe in your heart, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, you will live also accordingly. That's our problem. Okay. That's our problem. How do employees believe work when they know CCTV cameras are everywhere. Why do they work well? Let me ask you this question, why do people work well when the CCTV cameras are there upon them? It's because they know the management is alive and watching. Alive and watching. Why do Christians live the lives they live? Because they, in their heart, don't really believe that He's alive and is with us. Just becomes theology, it has not become reality. Reality. That's what he's talking about. If you confess with your mouth the lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart. Believe in your heart. What? He is not in the grave. He's risen. Everything changes. Everything changes. Okay. Everything changes.

So when we, when we come to the table today, the Communion Table, I'll ask our worship team to come, the elders to come. Remember, it is the Lord's Table. This is not a dead man's table. This is not a dead man's table. This is a resurrected Man's table. Dead people don't eat here. People who eat here are all alive. Alive. That's why the condition we put for eating, partaking in the Lord's Table is that you are saved, you are baptized, meaning you die to the world, you are alive to Christ and if you're alive to Christ, partake of Christ's Table, because He's alive. He's not dead. He's not dead.

I want to know the power of His resurrection. Where we end up in life in eternity will depend upon the power. We know vehicles. All kinds of vehicles are there, vehicles which can travel longer and carry more load has more power. What has been given to us is resurrection power. The very power that raised Jesus from the dead. The fellowship of His sufferings. We only go through a fraction of it. Paul went through the, probably the entire gamut of sufferings with Christ Jesus. You know why, because He understood the resurrection power. Like I said, whether you like it or not, suffering is part and

parcel of a Christian's life. But the question is, how do handle it? What has God given us to handle it? It is the power of His resurrection and when you have these four things coming together – you know Him, you have *the power of resurrection*, you now see His *sufferings as fellowship* and you are *conformed to His death* (Phil. 3:10). How did He walk on earth? He was dead to Himself and alive to God alone; He was living for God, He didn't live His life. There is an order that is given over there. These sufferings will bring this death. This power will help us to go through these sufferings. So He sums up His entire life – *Phil 3:10*, is the life of Paul, "This is what I want to know." And therefore he became the man of God and used the most. The 13 letters of Paul written in the New Testament to the Church, every letter is a revelation of God. If one man, on earth who could say, "I know Him." And Paul says, in Timothy, "I know whom I believe." How did he know? It is because he understood the power of resurrection. Don't waste that power, it is available to every child.

The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead, is the Spirit that lives in us. Without resurrection power, we will always fail. We'll always struggle, always struggle. So let this be our motto. Our year begins, not on January 1st. Our year begins on resurrection Sunday. The first day of the week. Our year begins and today is the beginning of a new year for God's people, because everything begins a new creation, begins on resurrection. Early in the morning, the tomb was empty. As we stand we will worship and we will make this our prayer. "Lord I want to know You."

This was Paul's prayer. I keep asking the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, that He may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, that you may know Him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you. The riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints and His incomparably great power for us who believe the power is like the working of His mighty strength which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him up from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms (Eph 1:17-18). Starting today, all of you who do not know these verses, mark it in your Bible and make it your prayer. Make it your prayer, then make it your prayer. Make it your prayer. "Lord open my eyes. Open my eyes Lord. This is one thing I want to know. I want to know You. I want to know Your power. I want to know You. I want to know Your power. Once I know You, I know what I have to become. Once I know Your power I know I have the power to become like You." True righteousness and true holiness. True holiness. That is what salvation is all about. Then you know, when you come each Sunday, you come to Church, it's Sunday you'll be more and more excited. The songs we used to sing in the old days, I fall in love with Him over and over again will become real songs, because it is true the more you know Him, the more you will love Him. The more you will love Him. The more you will adore Him. More you will appreciate Him. And it's all there, given actually pages of this Book and inside of us, where the Spirit is. That's the Spirit that has been given to us. That's why New Covenant people are different. They're a joyous crowd. Nothing could stop them. Beatings couldn't stop them, death couldn't stop them, prison walls couldn't stop them, wherever they went what they took with them was the power of resurrection. This morning we will pray.

Closing prayer

Father, we just come to You Lord. This is our prayer. We want to know You. We are not satisfied, Lord. The more we hear, the more we read, the more we realize how little we know You. How little we know You. We are like that proverbial little boy with a bucket at the edge of the ocean, trying to empty the ocean. There is so much to You, Lord. So so much. You're a God who wants to reveal Yourself to Your children. Oh Father! Touch us today. Create a desire, a hunger in us oh Lord, for You. We hungry and thirsty for so many things of the world. But today, for us, the first day of the year, the resurrection Sunday, I pray, create true desire, because Your Word says, in Jeremiah - it's not the man who is rich or wealthy or strong or powerful. It's not the one who is great. The one who is really great is the one who knows You. And ultimately Lord, that's the only thing that will matter in life. Whether we know You and how much we know You. Create that desire to know You.

And the power of Your resurrection, the fellowship of Your sufferings, and to be conformed to Your death, so that You can live through us, to the glory of the Father. I pray Lord, let it be everyone's prayer. Every man, woman and child who understands. I pray Lord, let that be their prayer every day, "I want to know You. The power of Your resurrection, we want to know You." To that end we commit ourselves as a Church. It's a body of Christ here everywhere. We just surrender ourselves to that purpose, O Lord. To know You, to know the power of Your resurrection, to be Your witnesses, and to be the ambassadors of Christ, to reconcile a world back to God.

Use us Lord, in whatever way You see fit, use us Lord, for Your glory. Use us for Your glory. Thank You Father, thank You. I commit the Church into Your hands. I pray Lord that You'll reach out and touch everyone, especially those who are not well in their body. I pray Lord that You would touch and You would heal them. Touch and heal them. Touch Lord, heal Lord. The presence of God be with each one and go with each one. Meet Your people at their point of need. The summer is here. It's a blazing 40, but we have a promise of the living God that the sun will not smite us by day.

We stand on the promises because these promises are not given by a dead god, but a living God. Not just an ordinary god, but the God who is in the highest. And we can ask in the Name that is about every other name and Your Word says every promise in the Book is yes and amen in Your name. Oh Father, help us to understand and know what resurrection means. What it means. Help us to believe in the resurrection and walk in the power of the resurrection, and look death in the eye and laugh. For us, to live or die is gain. There is no more loss for God's people. To live or to die is gain because of the resurrection. If we live, we live in the resurrecting power, if we die, we are resurrected immediately. That's the truth Lord. I pray this truth will go deep into our hearts and we will walk in it. Thank You, thank You Father. Thank You Lord. I pray the hand of God will be there upon everyone as we fellowship, Lord. Protect us, preserve us, keep us. Thank You, thank You Father. Thank You Lord. We praise You, we worship You, be glorified Lord, for in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen. Amen