



Easter

He IS Risen!

CrossDaily.com

Jesus is Alive

1. Have I Died and Risen To New Life With God?
2. How Does Jesus' Resurrection Affect My Life Today?
3. How do I connect my daily life to God's will and receive resurrection power to carry that out?

I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. (Ephesians 1 NLT)

Jesus enables us, his people to make our way through life more confidently and more joyfully, with clearer purpose and meaning. Jesus heals broken bodies and darkened, discouraged minds. As a result of Jesus powerful presence, individuals are able to face life with renewed vigor and enthusiasm

Jesus lives in us by His Spirit to guide us in everyday life. He also speaks to us about the bigger picture. Every event of human history has a meaning in itself as it is connected to God's plan for all people and all of history. We see brief moments of time. God sees it all and is able to work through seemingly hopeless times to build something far greater and more wonderful than we can imagine. The cross of Jesus looked and felt awful to him and to his family and friends who watched him die. They didn't realize that God was doing something incredible. Jesus had a glimpse of it because we are told in the Bible: ***"Who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame."*** (Hebrews 12)

All of life's journey is connected to this Easter event. We take time each year in this special celebration and

daily through prayer and meditation to help us remember. It is only when we look at life through the lens of Jesus powerful resurrection that we can look hopefully and enthusiastically at all the possibilities that exist for us. Without Jesus resurrection, we have no hope. Life is too much. Life is too complicated. Life has too many disappointments.

The resurrection of Jesus, and now His powerful life in us, reminds us that we do not need to use sinful and hurtful ways of coping with difficulties. We can find new life as we give ourselves to God, as Jesus did and God will bring new life to us and our circumstances as He did to Jesus.

What is often difficult for us is to go through the process Jesus followed: obediently suffering & even dying, lying dead in a tomb before being raised from the dead. Sometimes we give up on God too soon. The suffering doesn't end as soon as we think it should. Something crashes or ends that we were sure was going to be the answer for us. Things seem lonely or empty for a while. Jesus suffered, died & was buried. On the third day, God raised Him to new life. God will raise us to new life if we will hold on to Him during the challenging times that don't always make sense to us.

Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to its lustful desires. Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness, to be used for sinning. Instead, give yourselves completely to God since you have been given new life. And use your whole body as a tool to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you are no longer subject to the law, which enslaves you to sin. Instead, you are free by God's grace. (From Romans 6, NLT)

Do we believe that Jesus can take our most broken and disappointing moments and transform them into great possibilities? Do we believe that Jesus can work miracles today? Are we able to push back discouragement and frustration and give ourselves to God in joy, knowing that ***"God works for good in all things for those who love Him, those who are called according to His purpose."*** (Romans 8)