

A large Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles is centered on the page. The left circle is a solid teal color. The right circle is filled with a close-up photograph of a cracked, light-colored stone, symbolizing new life. The word "easter" is written in a large, white, serif font across the center of the overlapping area.

easter

EVERY DAY. EVERYWHERE.

21 DAYS OF RESURRECTION LIFE
IN REAL TIME



EVERY DAY. EVERYWHERE.

How To Use This Book

Easter Every Day, Easter Everywhere is an invitation to reflect on some of the qualities and characteristics of resurrection life. Each daily reading consists of a Scripture text, a short reflection, and a "resurrection rhythm." These are practices that invite the resurrection life of Jesus to rule and reign in our hearts and lives. While they often connect, these rhythms are not shared in a particular order of importance or priority. The readings are numbered, not dated, so they can be read beginning at any time and used at any pace.

Introduction

Trevor Brown

In most Christian traditions, Easter Sunday is a special celebration. It is often marked by special meals or special clothes. It is celebrated in special music and special gatherings. However, when the clothes are put away, the meals are finished, and the celebrations stop, what remains?

Easter can feel like a conclusion. It is the end of Holy Week, but Easter is not a finish line. The empty tomb teaches us that what looks like an ending is only the beginning.

The resurrection isn't just history; it is our present reality and eternal hope. In a world weighed down by death, fear, and brokenness, the risen Christ offers new life, here and now. The completed work of Christ is not an ending, but a new beginning. This devotional book is an invitation to live in the power of the resurrection every day and carry its joy everywhere.

Whether in the ordinary moments or the darkest valleys, the reality of the empty tomb changes everything. The new life of Jesus comes to us through his Holy Spirit and empowers us to live as signs and symbols of the world to come. Read and rediscover the good news that Jesus is alive. Because He lives, so can we. We are learning to live with resurrection life in real time.

Easter is every day. Easter is everywhere!

1

Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. And his appearance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. The guards shook for fear of him and became like dead men.

Matthew 28:1-4

The First Day and Every Day

Each of the four Gospels begins the resurrection story with the same phrase: “on the first day of the week.” This is not a mere calendar detail. It is a spiritual invitation. Resurrection Day was not only the day Jesus rose from the dead. It was the beginning of something entirely new. The old week, marked by sorrow, sin, and death, had ended. The new week begins with resurrection, hope, and life.

When Jesus rose on the first day, the gospel writers marked it as the dawn of a new creation. The same Spirit that raised Him now lives in us (Romans 8:11), meaning every day can be a resurrection day. Every morning, we rise into a world where death has been defeated, grace is stronger than sin, and Jesus walks beside us.

Easter is not simply a day that we commemorate. The empty tomb reshapes our entire week, our year, our story. Resurrection is not merely a moment that we remember. It is a life that we live.

In Christ, each day can be the “first day” again. Live today as if the life you’ve been given is new creation life, resurrection life. Because of what happened “on the first day,” you can live Easter every day.

NEW LIFE

Practicing the rhythm of God's new life means intentionally aligning our daily habits with the reality of the resurrection. Easter people look at the world's sin and brokenness and say, "This is not the end of the story." They don't withdraw or despair; they engage the world with courageous hope, because they know death doesn't get the final word.

Write down one promise of God from Scripture and carry it with you - on your phone, in your pocket, or on a sticky note. When discouragement or fear creeps in, read it aloud and remind yourself that hope is not based on feelings, but on the unchanging faithfulness of God. Speak words of hope to someone else in a text, a kind word, or a prayer. Let your actions reflect the belief that with God, new life is always possible.



“Even for disciples like Mary, Easter does not return her and Jesus to the past; Easter opens up a new future. The earthly ministry is over; now the ministry of the exalted, glorified, ever-abiding Christ begins.”

Fred Craddock



"The Bible is not a script for a funeral service, but it is the record of God always bringing life where we expected to find death. Everywhere it is the story of resurrection."

Eugene Peterson

2

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen..."

Matthew 28:5-6

Nowhere or Everywhere?

"He is not here." These are the first words spoken about Jesus to the women who came that first morning "to look at the tomb" (Matthew 28). The angel, after telling them not to be afraid, tells them that Jesus is no longer there. He has risen!

We read these words aloud at Easter in triumph and excitement. "He is not here!" But those words must have elicited a different response in the hearts of the two expectant women. They came expecting to grieve, to mourn at a sealed tomb. Instead, they found emptiness. John recounts Mary expressing it: "they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Confusion mixed with awe. Concern combined with ignorance. Where did he go? What does this mean?

We believe that the resurrection of Jesus has impacted all of history. Jesus stands at the end of history ready to sum up all things in himself. Yet, he does not stay there. While rushing away with the angel's news that the Lord is risen, the women were stopped abruptly. "And behold, Jesus met them" (Matthew 28:9a).

What a relief. What a defining moment. Mary and Mary Magdalene discovered what remains true for every disciple. This is the beginning of a

new relationship with the Lord not built on physical presence alone, but on His living Spirit in nearness and power. The surprise of emptiness became the joy of eternal presence.

“He is not here” became “I am with you always.”

“He is not here” becomes Easter is everywhere!

Relationship

Matthew tells about the two who went to the tomb together and a Lord who would not let them return alone. God desires that we would live in healthy, whole relationships – with God and with each other. Is there a new friendship you need to pursue? An old one to renew? A relationship to mend? Consider how you can give and receive the blessing of community this day.

3

And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.

Matthew 28:9

At His Feet

The only response the women can fathom at the greeting of the risen Jesus is worship. Their response is instinctive and wholehearted. They fall at his feet, grasp him, and worship him. Runners fall in reverence. The busy bow low. The moment is tender, powerful, and deeply human. The angel's instruction insists they make haste. The Lord's greeting demands they halt. The response is not merely intellectual. It is emotional and physical.

This scene reminds us that resurrection faith is not abstract or distant. They clasp his feet, once pierced, now glorified. It's an act of reverence, love, and awe. Worship is not the work of those whose doubts are settled or understanding complete. It is a rightful response to the reality of God.

This is the posture of the resurrection life. This is where healing begins: at the feet of Jesus. These women will soon carry the good news to others, but first, they worship. In a world that rushes past sacred moments, Jesus invites us to pause, to stoop down low, and to cling to Christ. Before we go, plan, or press on, we are called to come, clasp, and worship.

WORSHIP

At its core, worship is recognizing and responding to God. It is not a moment, but a daily posture. When we truly see who Jesus is, our hearts bow low in awe. Find a reverent posture, one that is uncommon for you. Perhaps, it will be physically lower than usual. Spend a few moments there in prayer, song, or simply listening to a favorite worship song.



"Worship after Easter is no longer an attempt to reach up to God, but a response to the God who has already come to us in the risen Christ. Resurrection shifts the center of gravity."

Rowan Williams



"Do not be afraid."

Matthew 28:10

In His Presence

To the women now bowing in worship, Jesus echoes the most frequent command of God in all of the Bible: "Do not fear." Those who clasp the feet of Jesus no longer need to cling to fear. He speaks courage into trembling hearts.

Jesus does not deny our challenges or struggles. He knows them better than we do. Jesus does not ignore evil or minimize pain. He is familiar with those, too. He simply calls us to a deeper faith.

Fear had surrounded his arrest and consumed his followers at the cross. The empty tomb had sparked a panic. But something is different now. Something has changed. The resurrection declares that fear no longer has the final word. The presence of the risen Christ is a promise that can be trusted. The psalmist knew why faith can replace fear: "I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4).

TRUST

Having faith in Jesus often requires stepping forward even when the path is unclear. Has fear or worry hindered your faithfulness in any way? What is an aspect of Christian discipleship that you would embrace more fully if you were fearless? What obedience have you let fear delay? Take a step toward trusting God today.



"And he departed from our eyes, that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here."

Augustine of Hippo, 397 AD



"Go and tell my brothers..."

Matthew 28:10

Go and Tell

Traitors. Deserters. Betrayers. Defectors. There is a plethora of words in every language for those who abandon a cause or prove themselves disloyal. Jesus chooses to use “brothers” instead. There is an intimacy in his command. These are the same men who fled, denied, and abandoned him. Instead of rebuke, Jesus extends grace. Restoration is already assumed in resurrection life.

Jesus entrusts this first announcement to two women, an extraordinary act in a culture where women’s testimonies were often disregarded. They are commissioned to bear witness to the truth. “Go and tell” is his command. Jesus’ words remind us that the resurrection is not just news to receive. This is news to share. And off they went!

Obedience is a central virtue in the Christian life. Jesus says, “If you love me, you will keep my commandments” (John 14:15). From the beginning, Scripture reveals that obedience is how faith takes shape. Abraham obeyed and journeyed into the unknown. Jesus obeyed even to the point of death. Obedience is the pathway to true freedom found in aligning our lives with God’s will. In a culture that elevates autonomy, Christian obedience stands as a quiet rebellion, a declaration that we are not our own. We belong to Christ. Whatever he says to do, let it be done in you.

OBEDIENCE

This is a blessing, not a burden. Obedience brings our resurrection living into everyday life. Small acts of faithfulness ripple with eternal impact. Say “yes” to the will of God today. Say “yes” to going where He leads you to go, “yes” to doing what He commands you to do, and “yes” to sharing what He has already asked you to share.

6

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Living Hope

Peter praises God for giving believers a “new birth into a living hope,” reminding us that hope is not abstract or distant. It is alive because Christ is alive. The resurrection proves that Jesus keeps His promises. Our hope isn’t wishful thinking. It is a confident expectation in what God is doing. Despair is the enemy of hope. It sees no future, no possible change, no light ahead. Hope is a future reality that changes the present.

At Easter, God’s future breaks into the present through the resurrection of Jesus. That’s why Peter can say our hope is “living.” The resurrection is a revolutionary act of divine triumph over sin, death, and despair. Christians put hope into practice by living as if God’s promised future were available to them now. God has promised to restore the world, and He invites you to live today as a preview of the world to come.

List some things that the Bible tells us are true of God's future. What will be present in God's new world? What will go away? Imagine one way that you can make one of those future truths a reality today. No matter how big or small, these acts of love, beauty, justice, and mercy can become resurrection acts – living hope.

[illegible]



"The resurrection means not merely that Christians have a hope for the future but that they have a hope that comes from the future. The Bible's startling message is that when Jesus rose, he brought the future kingdom of God into the present."

Tim Keller



The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Matthew 28:10

Overjoyed

Sorrow and confusion were no match for the joy that burst through when the disciples saw Jesus alive. His presence turns mourning into dancing. Joy is not a requirement to come to Jesus in faith, but it is a sure and promised result. Resurrection joy is deeper than our emotions. It has less to do with feelings and more to do with delight.

John tells us that Jesus summed it up this way at the supper with his disciples: "These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11). As we marvel at the reality of a God who comes to us, who will not leave creation in despair, we discover the kind of love the Father has. It's a love that never fails and can never be defeated. It's a love that redeems and restores.

Jesus has God's joy because he abides in God's love. This joy isn't circumstantial; it's relational. When we stay close to Jesus, we begin to experience a joy that can steady us, even in sorrow. Let joy shape your attitude today.

JOY

Take ten minutes today to sit in stillness with Jesus. Reflect on His love for you. Think on what He has already done, not what you must do for Him. Ask Him to fill you with His joy. Then, plan one way to spread that joy to someone else today through encouragement, kindness, or simply being present.





"The resurrection is not the happy ending to the story; it is the turning of the story in a new direction. The joy of Easter is the joy of discovering that God has written the final chapter and it is full of hope."

Leslie Newbigin

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*So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you;
as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

John 20:21

Breath of God

Jesus appeared in resurrected form on that very first day and again a week later. Each time he greets them, bringing peace. Here on the first day of the week, the new creation echoes the first. The same breath that filled mankind when formed from the dust now comes with life again.

Jesus meets them where they are and breathes peace into their chaos. His peace is deeply personal, but it is never private. His next words insist that we are sent into the world to embody that peace in how we live, love, and serve. This resurrection peace is both a gift and a task. It quiets our fears and ignites our faith. It assures us we are forgiven and invites us to forgive. As we receive Christ's peace, we become carriers of it into our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and the world. We are not only recipients of peace. We are sent in peace.

Peace

How can your life bring peace into the prevailing chaos and conflict around you? Being a peacemaker is about more than the absence of chaos. True peace requires the presence of Christ's reconciling spirit. When tense moments arise (at home, work, and even online), choose peace. Refuse to fuel the fire. Listen first, respond with kindness, and speak truth with love.



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Acts 1:8

What You Will Be

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus left his followers with more than a memory. He left them with a mission. In his final promise and commissioning, he reminded us all that the resurrection was the beginning of our work.

Being a witness begins with an experience of the risen Christ. To live and speak as a witness does not require perfection or eloquence, only honesty and courage. No one embodied “witness” more than John the Baptist.

“He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). John’s gospel tells us relatively little about the man. Nothing about his parents, hometown, or heritage. Only that he was “sent from God.” John is not so much the official spokesperson. He’s just called a witness.

In court, a witness testifies to what the witness has seen or heard. Nobody expects the witness to be creative or original. The background, or education, or personality, is not important to the court. What matters is the vocal testimony of the witness.

WITNESS

Ask God today for fresh boldness to be a witness at home, at work, and wherever your feet take you. Sharing the good news in words requires living a life that embodies the message, too. Pray for opportunities to speak and to live as a witness to the truth of Jesus.

10

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4

Emptied

Four times, twice each in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus teaches that those who humble themselves will be exalted and those who exalt themselves will be brought low. What Jesus taught, he also lived. Jesus' entire life was marked by a concern for others. As Paul instructed the church in Philippi, he knew the importance of imitating this posture of the Lord.

Humility is the refusal to measure ourselves by comparison. In a world that prizes status, influence, and visibility, humility reorients us toward God and others. Pride is just the opposite. The proud are oriented around themselves, marked by a vanity that requires comparison. Jesus, though fully God, humbled Himself by becoming human.

Jesus' life teaches us that humility isn't weakness. Humility opens us to grace. As James writes, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" (James 4:6). When we release the need to prove ourselves, we become more available for God's work in us and through us. Humility creates space for others to flourish. It frees us from comparison and competition and invites us toward the selfless love of God.

To live humbly is to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. It is to be content with obscurity where the world seeks applause. Humility trusts God's approval over human praise.

HUMILITY

Find an act of service this week without recognition. Plan a way to meet a need for someone else in a way that no one else will know.

”

**"Do you wish to rise?
Begin by descending.
You plan a tower that will
pierce the clouds? Lay first the
foundation of humility."**

Augustine of Hippo



Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7

Not To Be Served

The “Christ Hymn” of Philippians describes an awe-inspiring mystery: the eternal Son of God chose the form of a servant. In becoming a human being, Jesus did not cease to be what he was. He did not renounce his divinity. Rather, in becoming human and becoming a servant, he was expressing all that divinity means.

He considered self-emptying servanthood to be an act of God. The Son of God, who from all eternity is equal with God the Father, understands that the best way to express being God is through a cradle, a towel, and a cross. As Jesus would explain, “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Now we can understand that curious scene in Mark’s gospel when a Roman soldier is looking up at the dying Jesus and says, “Truly this was the Son of God.” What did this soldier see that warranted that statement? What made him realize that? It was the self-emptying, self-giving love of a Suffering Servant. In that moment, he knew that this was the Son of God.

SERVANTHOOD

Life in the way of Jesus is a life of servanthood. Begin your day by asking, “Who can I serve today, Lord?” Let your prayers move you to action: write a note, make a call, or offer help. Intentionally take on a quiet, thankless job today. Help someone behind the scenes. Servanthood thrives where no one is watching.

12

Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Philippians 2:8

Even Death on a Cross

The sacrifice of Jesus stands at the center of our faith and of all human history. We place our faith in what Christ has accomplished for us on the cross.

Jesus calls us to a life of sacrifice and surrender – both to God and to others, even our enemy. Most of us have a hard time loving those that love us. We struggle to do good to others that we like. The bigger battle, the unique marker of resurrection life, is loving those who mistreat us, take from us, curse us, harm us, and borrow from us. That's the kind of sacrifice that marked the death of Jesus.

Sacrifice is what comes in this world to those who will be rewarded in the next. Those who follow Jesus will not find themselves at home or welcomed by the world, no more than he was. Those who walk in the way of Jesus will find themselves in the way of the cross.

SACRIFICE

Let go of a convenience like your time, money, or energy to meet someone else's need. Offer your seat, your evening, or your resources without expecting anything in return.

13

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

1 John 3:16-18

Love in Action

Generosity is more than a healthy habit. It is a defining mark of the Christian life. It not only flows from our concern for others but reflects the heart of God. Our God is a generous God who pours out his undeserved grace to us. We give freely because we have received freely. When we give of our time, resources, compassion, and attention, we mirror God's character and imitate the life of His Son.

The early church understood this deeply. In Acts 2 and 4, believers ensured no one was in need by sharing the things they had. They gave out of trust in God, not from abundance. They believed God would provide, so they gave freely.

Jesus addresses the dangers of our possessions on numerous occasions. He praised the widow who gave her two small coins because she gave all she had. Generosity, in the kingdom of God, is a testimony of faith. When we live with open hands and open hearts we bear witness to the truth about God. When we live generously, we live like Jesus. In doing so, we show the world God's love "with actions and in truth."

GENEROSITY

Choose something in your life to give away. Generosity can be creative, consisting of more than money (time, attention, possessions, presence, etc.), but choose a gift that feels generous, a worthy reflection of God's grace to you.



*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be
to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Thanks Be to God

This victorious passage is the crescendo of Paul's teaching on the resurrection. With poetic boldness, Paul mocks death. Death once held power through sin, but through Christ's death and resurrection, both sin and death have lost their grip. Jesus has taken on sin, fulfilled the law, and emerged triumphant from the grave. "Death is swallowed up in victory!"

Christians do not live under the shadow of death, but in the light of resurrection hope. Gratitude becomes our song. We face life and death with courage, knowing Christ has already won. "Thanks be to God," Paul shouts. To the Thessalonians he writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Because of Christ's victory, we live with a sense of thankfulness to God. Does your life express the gratitude that such a gift deserves?

GRATITUDE

Gratitude shifts our focus from what we lack to what we've been given. As we cultivate thankfulness, we become more content, more joyful, and more generous. Make a list of what you are most grateful for. Offer it to God in prayer.

15

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

John 17:1-3

Talking to God

Have you ever noticed how many prayers surround the resurrection story? Jesus prays on his way to the cross, before his arrest, and even from the cross. When we pray, we step into the reality that Christ is risen and present.

Prayer is our daily act of resistance against sin, death, and despair. Romans 8:11 reminds us that "the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you." That same Spirit intercedes through us in prayer. So, when we feel powerless, prayer reminds us that resurrection power is at work in and through us.

When we pray, we're aligning ourselves with the power that raised Jesus from the dead. We're opening ourselves to the will of God and declaring that God's kingdom has come into the world. Let prayer be your daily rhythm of hope. Every whispered prayer is a sign of Jesus' new life.

PRAYER

Read Jesus' farewell prayer in John 17. Make note of the petitions he makes to God. What is he praying about? What are his concerns? Find a time at the beginning and end of your day to pray about something that Jesus prayed about on that night.

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

John 17:20-21

That They May Be One

In the midst of Jesus' farewell prayer is a model for the church. Jesus' primary request for us is striking: "that all of them may be one." Jesus doesn't pray for safety, growth, or strength first. He prays for unity. Jesus sees unity as the most important instrument for sharing His life with the world.

Jesus wants the connectedness of his people to be like the connection between he and the Father – "just as you are in me and I am in you." When the church lives in this kind of unity, it becomes a living witness to the gospel. "Then the world will know that you sent me," Jesus says.

In a divided world, the church has an opportunity to tell a better story about the way we relate to one another. Our loyalty and love can be a visible sign of the resurrection power that brings people together and makes them one in Christ.

UNITY

Say a prayer for unity today. Pray for the unity of your local church and the global church. Consider how you can encourage and support the oneness of Christ's body in your church and community.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Colossians 3:12-13

Forgive One Another

Paul urges believers to “bear with each other.” This is a call to patient love in the midst of human imperfection. He also offers a standard of measure. Christians are to forgive “as the Lord forgave you.” God’s forgiveness is undeserved, full, and free. This kind of forgiveness is hard. It asks us to look in the face of those who have wronged us and let go of resentment. It requires us to abandon the right to retaliate and trust God with our hurt and pain.

To forgive is to live in the resurrection life where grace wins over bitterness. That same grace is meant to flow through us to others. In a world of grudges, forgiveness is one of the most powerful witnesses we can offer. In doing so, we also discover a new freedom in Christ, for the one who forgives and the one who is forgiven.

FORGIVENESS

Consider what relationships in your life are in need of forgiveness. Some are obvious and clear while other hurts build unnoticed. Consider the measure of God’s forgiveness toward you and use that to measure your grace toward others.

18

Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory; the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

1 Corinthians 2:6-8

Hidden Wisdom

Paul contrasts human wisdom with the hidden wisdom of God. God's wisdom is a mystery to the rulers of this age. This world does not comprehend strength through sacrifice, victory through suffering, and love through loss. It does not understand the wisdom of God in which humility reigns over pride, meekness proves to be mighty, and death results in life.

As Christians, we are called to embody the wisdom of the cross. It turns the world's logic upside down. It is a wisdom shaped by self-giving love and faith in God's purposes. To live in resurrection wisdom is to reject the assumptions of this world and live with a new imagination about what is possible with God. As we follow the risen Christ, may we grow deeper in this hidden wisdom.

WISDOM

Voices of Godly wisdom are rare. Consider how your voice might be used to bring new wisdom to life or work. Take time to think about what areas of your life are most shaped by human wisdom. How might the wisdom of the cross and the empty tomb reshape your decisions and priorities this week?



"The resurrection is the decisive victory of the wisdom of God over the wisdom of the world—the ultimate declaration that God's way of suffering love is the way to life."

NT Wright

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

Crown of Life

James shares a promise for anyone walking through difficulty. The resurrection of Jesus is our ultimate example: through the suffering of the cross came the victory of life. When we persevere, we are walking in the footsteps of Jesus. When we endure with hope, we are imitating his life.

The blessing described here comes to those who remain steady amidst the struggle. God sees every moment of quiet faithfulness, and He promises a "crown of life." The history of Christianity is filled with the stories of persistent, faithful people who pressed on even in the midst of great persecution. There's no doubt they held these words of James near to their hearts, and you can too.

PERSEVERANCE

The practice of perseverance is different than simple persistence. It is hopeful endurance. Is there something you've stopped doing that you need to pick up again? Can you practice a stubborn faithfulness by sticking with an everyday task even when it frustrates you?



For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body. For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.

Romans 8:22-25

The Whole Creation Groans

The resurrection teaches us that God's timing is never early and never late. Between the sorrow of Good Friday and the glory of Easter morning, there was a day of waiting and bewilderment. It was the silence of Saturday. God was at work in that waiting.

Resurrection life is not always about instant answers. It does not end our waiting. It invites us to join the hopeful patience of all creation.

Patience teaches us to have a faith that holds on even when we don't see what God is doing. We may tremble at the foot of the cross or arrive to a tomb with tears, but waiting with God is never wasted. When we practice patient faith in God's promised future, we are submitting our lives to the timing of God.

PATIENCE

Write down a few things you've been waiting for lately. As you read the list, give it to God in prayer, trusting the Lord's timing.

The next time life forces you to wait longer than you'd like, use the opportunity to practice patience. Take those moments to pray to God about the things you cannot control.

21

But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians 3:20–21

Eagerly Awaiting

Paul expressed a deep longing for Christ's return. This expectancy filled the first believers. They knew that the resurrection is a guarantee that our bodies, frail and mortal, will one day be glorified like His.

With Paul, we are to wait eagerly. This means living with watchful hearts. Living in expectancy means staying alert to God's presence and purposes. Jesus calls His followers to "keep watch" (Matthew 24:42), which involves cultivating a life of prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit. Staying spiritually awake helps us resist complacency and focuses our lives on what truly matters.

The anticipation of Christ's return helps us lift our eyes above temporary struggles and distractions. It should fill our waiting with purpose and energize us to share the good news. It is a reminder to us that our true home is not here but with Christ (Philippians 3:20). All of our suffering and all of our joy is held in this greater story of redemption: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

EXPECTANCY

How would a readiness for Christ's return change how you invest your time and resources? How can you invite this kingdom perspective to reorient your priorities in the coming weeks?



"The practice of resurrection is an intentional, deliberate decision to believe and participate in resurrection life, life out of death, life that trumps death, life that is the last word, Jesus life."

Eugene Peterson





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