

Receive the Spirit
John 20:19-31

Does the resurrection give us resources to face the rest of life?

“He who has a why to live for can bear almost any how.”

—Nietzhe

Life's tragic triad in life: Guilt, Pain and Death.

The resurrection is the only WHY strong enough to live by.

The resurrection offers hope in the face of death

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw him.

v. 20

“[Jesus] emphatically insists that He is not merely a spirit... [He] takes steps to demonstrate that the risen body can still perform animal operations, such as eating...and [yet] it is not related to space in the same way as our bodies.”

—C.S. Lewis.

John 20:30-31

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and by believing you may have life in His name.

Some day you will read in the papers that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now. I shall have gone up higher, that is all; out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch; that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.

—Billy Graham Quoting D.L Moody

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

(John 20:25)

The resurrection offers purpose in the face of pain

“As the Father has sent Me, I also send you... If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

v.21

The church exists, in other words, for what we sometimes call “mission”: to announce to the world that Jesus is its Lord...HE is the wise, loving, and just creator; He has defeated the powers that corrupt and enslave it; and by His Spirit he is at work to heal and renew it. And now this King calls you Holy and beloved because you belong to Him! This is the “good news,” and when it’s announced it transforms people and societies.

—NT Wright

After saying this, He breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

John 20:22-23

The resurrection offers peace in the face of shame

But one of the Twelve, Thomas (called “Twin”), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples kept telling him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!”

John 20:24-25

“Doubt is probably a permanent feature of the Christian life. It’s like some kind of spiritual growing pain. Sometimes it recedes into the background; at other times it comes to the forefront, making its presence felt with a vengeance.”

—Alistair McGrath

Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer." Thomas responded to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:26-28

Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don't be an unbeliever, but a believer." Thomas responded. Those who believe without seeing are blessed."

John 20:27

It's not as a child that I believe and confess Jesus Christ.
My hosanna is born of a furnace of doubt.

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 11:23-26