

John 20:1-7 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. 4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, 7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. (Proof that it wasn’t robbers who took the body) 8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

They Didn’t Understand That Jesus Had to Rise From The Dead (John 20:1-10)

John 20:9-10 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) 10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

This is all happening in real-time for them. / They hadn’t put it all together yet.

Do we understand why Jesus had to rise from the dead? Let’s make sure we do.

Why Do We Need to Understand The Resurrection?

1. This is the most important thing for us to understand and pass on to others.

1 Corinthians 15:3-11 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas (Peter), and then to the Twelve. 6 After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 7 Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, 8 and last of all he appeared to me (Paul) also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

2. We preach that Christ has been raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:12-13 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.

3. If there was no resurrection our faith is futile, we are still in sin, lost with no hope.

1 Corinthians 15:14-19 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. If Jesus hadn’t been raised from the dead—God lost, death won. We would have no hope, our faith would be worthless, and death is our end.

4. Because of the resurrection, we are alive in Christ!

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

- a. **Romans 6:8-9** Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.
- b. Jesus said in **John 11:25-26** ...**“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; 26 and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”** (Great question for us today!)

Resurrection Evening

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, (The Disciples of Christ, even in tough times, must not forsake assembling together.)

Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”

- More than a greeting. This is a new kind of “Peace,” paid for with a high price. **“But He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53:5-6

John 20:20-21 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. **21** Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (Jesus was sending them just like He was sent.)

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit. 23** If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

The Breath of Life

John 20:22 And with that he breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.**

Finally, the moment they had all been waiting for. Salvation and receiving the Spirit of Life! This is the moment the disciples were born again.

The Disciples Already Believed and Confessed Jesus as the Messiah:

- **Matthew 16:16-17** **16** Simon Peter answered, **“You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” 17** Jesus replied, **“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.**
- **Romans 10:9-10** **If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

But in Matthew 16 when they realized who Jesus was and confessed him as the Son of God there still had to be a shedding of blood to cover their sins.

Hebrews 9:22 **In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

Now in John 20, the Disciples not only believed and confessed Jesus as savior, but now Jesus not only had shed his blood for them, and he had been raised from the dead to give them resurrection life. Therefore, Jesus breathed the Spirit on them.

John 20:22 And with that he breathed on them and said, **“Receive the Holy Spirit.**

Because of the Resurrection We Can Receive the Breath of Life

Now because of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection we can believe and receive the Breath of Life as well and begin **"Living the Resurrected Life!"**

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were **included in Christ** when you **heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.** **When you believed,** you were marked in him with a seal, the **promised Holy Spirit.**

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

"Living The Resurrected Life" Begins by Receiving the Breath of Life

In John 20 Jesus breathed into the disciples the "Breath of Life".

- Jesus' breath proved that He was really alive.
 - The breath of God brings physical life. **Genesis 2:7** Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.
 - **Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Jesus' breath is the life-giving Spirit of God.
 - **John 7:38-39** Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.
 - **John 20:22** And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Breathed The Holy Spirit of Life into them ... He Breathes His Spirit Into Us!

- **1 Corinthians 6:19** Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
- **Romans 8:11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is **living in you,** he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of **his Spirit who lives in you.**
- **1 John 4:4** You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

John the author of this Gospel concluded chapter 20 with this statement...

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you **may have life in his name.**

(Life because of The Resurrection and the Life-Giving Breath of God)

We Need to Understand The Resurrection, We Need to Live The Resurrected Life

Living The Resurrected Life is living a Spirit filled life which includes:

1. Receiving the Holy Spirit at Salvation. John 20:22
2. Empowered for service by the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8.
3. Continually being filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18
4. Walking in the Spirit. Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

And none of this would have been possible without the Resurrection of Christ we celebrate today!

It's through The Spirit of God living within us that we know that the resurrection is true! We don't require tangible evidence. You can't explain it, you just know it.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

EX: John Wesley

Are You Living The Resurrected Life? Does your Spirit bear witness with the Spirit of God that you are a child of God. It Can!

Believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is your savior and Lord. Die to your old sinful nature and let Christ Jesus breath the Holy Spirit life into you.

Next Step: This week I will consider if my spirit bears witness with the Holy Spirit that I am a child of God.

Salvation Call

Next Step: This week I will daily confess "Christ Jesus is My Resurrected Savior and Lord. Now I'm Living The Resurrected Life!"

Public Confessions:

**I Confess Christ Jesus as My Resurrected Savior and Lord.
Now I'm Living The Resurrected Life!**