



DIGGING DEEPER



Resurrection Proclamation

Read the passages below from your Bible and respond to the questions that follow. As you read these passages, try to put yourself in the shoes of the very first readers of these Bible passages; read as if you're hearing this info for the first time.

ACTS 2:29-41

This passage records the first sermon preached after Jesus' resurrection. Write down the details Peter gave about Jesus' death and resurrection.

What did Jesus' resurrection declare him to be, once and for all? (See Acts 2:36.)

What impact did the message of the Resurrection have on Peter's listeners?

ACTS 17:18-34

The Areopagus was a public square in ancient Athens where philosophers discussed the ideas of the day (not unlike your average school cafeteria at lunchtime). Paul was invited there to share about the Resurrection. Follow Paul's strategy as he lays out the basic beliefs of Christianity using language his listeners would have understood, including their own reasoning, philosophy, and poetry. Jot down a thought or two about the results of his speech.

ROMANS 6:1-14

As you read this incredible passage from Romans, try to find the answer to the question below. (You should come up with a pretty big list!)

What did the Resurrection do for us?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-44

As you read this passage, list the consequences we would be experiencing had Jesus *not* been raised from the dead. (Unless your leader told you otherwise, continue on to Taking It Inward after you make your list.)

TAKING IT INWARD



Resurrection Transformation

In New Testament lingo, belief equals action. The culture of that day took it very seriously to believe in something or someone. The word we use for *believe* is the word the Greeks used to describe ultimate trust—enter-into-contract type of trust. Your belief actually caused you to do something. What good is it to believe in something if it has no impact on your behavior? You can believe in exercise, but if you never get off the couch, what good is it? The bottom line is: *If your belief doesn't turn into action, you must not really believe!*

Apply this principle to your belief in Jesus' resurrection. How has your belief in Jesus' resurrection translated into trusting Jesus with the intimate details of your life? Use the questions below to prayerfully confront the reality of the Resurrection in your life. Journal your thoughts beneath each question.

How am I experiencing the blessings and promises of resurrection power, which God has exerted on and in me?

How am I trusting this power with the details of my life, details such as:

- a. career choice
- b. dating relationships
- c. fears of the future (loss, finances, etc.)
- d. regrets from the past (mistakes, scars, etc.)

Where do I tend to put most of my hope? Take a moment to place a percentage beside each option, with your percentages totaling 100 percent.

- a. a new or better job
- b. getting married
- c. a new boyfriend or girlfriend
- d. new “stuff” such as gadgets or clothes
- e. the Resurrection

WRAPPING IT UP

Resurrection Action

If the reality of Jesus' resurrection became as real to you as the clothes you're wearing now, how would the following areas of your life change?

- personal Bible study

- prayer life

- thought life

- talking about Jesus with others