

Resurrection and The Power to Keep on

3.9.25

Message 28

Romans 8:11–17 (CSB)

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, ¹³because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all those led by God's Spirit are God's sons. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. Instead, you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father!" ¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

1. Resurrection: An overlooked Ministry of Holy Spirit

A. When we think about Holy Spirit, many ministries come to mind.

1. We've been talking about the Spirit's role in our salvation.
2. Where the Spirit is, there is freedom and life.
3. We invest considerable time discussing gifts of the Spirit, like tongues or prophecy, or the office gifts like pastors and evangelists.
4. Yet, we often overlook one of his most important ministries: The ministry of resurrection.

B. I was reflecting this week upon how little I think or dwell on the promise of Resurrection.

1. I think this is partly because of my age and maybe because my life is pretty good, most of the time so why would I want to leave.
2. Yet, the resurrection of the believer is one of the most important promises in Scripture.
3. If it is that important, perhaps I should be thinking about it more often.

C. I started searching the Scriptures about resurrection and noticed that the Apostle Paul wrote 58 verses about the Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15.

1. I won't read them all today.
2. But notice the importance that Scripture places on Resurrection in the Christian Faith.

1 Corinthians 15:12–28 (CSB)

RESURRECTION ESSENTIAL TO THE FAITH

¹²Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say, "There is no resurrection of the dead"? ¹³If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain, and so is your faith. ¹⁵Moreover, we are found to be false witnesses about God, because we have testified wrongly about God that he raised up Christ—whom he did not raise up, if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸Those, then, who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished. ¹⁹If we have put our hope in Christ for this life only, we should be pitied more than anyone.

²⁰But as it is, Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For since death came through a man, the

resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. ²²For just as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

²³But each in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits; afterward, at his coming, those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, when he abolishes all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he puts all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be abolished is death. ²⁷For **God has put everything under his feet.** Now when it says "everything" is put under him, it is obvious that he who puts everything under him is the exception. ²⁸When everything is subject to Christ, then the Son himself will also be subject to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

D. There is more to be said from these verses than I can say today.

NOTICE:

1. If there is no resurrection, then there is Christianity, no Jesus, and no need for any of this.
2. Jesus' death and resurrection was the beginning, or firstfruits, of something so much bigger.
3. His resurrection initiated something that is as good as done but not fully finished yet, namely the full defeat of death.
4. When Jesus returns, at His coming vs 23, then comes the end and the abolishing of death.
5. All of this is absolutely certain, guaranteed, and as good as finished.
6. Yet, Paul says it is already, but not yet.
7. This helps explain what Paul means here in Romans 8, that although our flesh is dead, the Spirit is alive in us.

8. "Even if for the present 'the body is dead' (verse 10), it too has the promise of life."¹

2. A Promise for this earthly body.

A. We don't talk much about resurrection in our day and time.

1. We proclaim Jesus' resurrection every Easter, but only at funerals does it seem that resurrection becomes a topic for believers.

2. Yet, the same promise that guarantees life for our spirit guarantees resurrection for this mortal body.

B. It's fascinating to me that Jesus is returning and our bodies will be resurrected.

1. Christians often ignore the value of our bodies.

2. But **our earthly bodies are so precious to God that He is going to resurrect them.**

a. When our dead bodies are resurrected, God restores them, heals them, and perfects them.

b. He gives them a beauty and splendor that is both familiar and radically different.

c. If this seems too much to grasp, don't worry, you aren't alone.

C. Here is what the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth.

1 Corinthians 15:35–49 (CSB)

³⁵ But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? What kind of body will they have when they come?" ³⁶ You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷ And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the body that will be, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or

¹ F. F. Bruce, *Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 6, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 166.

another grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he wants, and to each of the seeds its own body. ³⁹ Not all flesh is the same flesh; there is one flesh for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones. ⁴¹ There is a splendor of the sun, another of the moon, and another of the stars; in fact, one star differs from another star in splendor. ⁴² So it is with the resurrection of the dead: Sown in corruption, raised in incorruption; ⁴³ sown in dishonor, raised in glory; sown in weakness, raised in power; ⁴⁴ sown a natural body, raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. ⁴⁵ So it is written, **The first man Adam became a living being**; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. ⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, then the spiritual.

⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. ⁴⁸ Like the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; like the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. ⁴⁹ And just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

3. The Resurrected Body is different by Design.

A. The Apostle Paul had a remarkable grasp of what the resurrection involved.

1. We sow this body as a seed.
2. What sprouts from a seed doesn't look like its seed.
 - a. A pumpkin seed doesn't look like a pumpkin.
 - b. A watermelon seed doesn't look like a watermelon.
 - c. Even the male seed doesn't look like a human.

3. **Paul said:**

³⁷ And as for what you sow—you are not sowing the body that will be, but only a seed, perhaps of wheat or another grain.

³⁸ But God gives it a body as he wants, and to each of the seeds its own body.

4. When Jesus arose from the dead, there was something that was familiar yet RADICALLY different.

- a. Mary Magdalene thought he was the gardener.
- b. The men on the road to Emmaus conversed with Jesus, but didn't recognize him.
- c. Even the disciples weren't sure based on physical appearance who it was they were talking to.

5. This is why Paul could say in verse 40:

⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is different from that of the earthly ones.

B. I can't fully grasp what all of this means.

1. Yet, part of me wants to cry out:
2. I want that!!!
3. If this is a Promise God has for me, then my trust in God must be greater than my uncertainty.

C. Even though this means death.

1. The Promise of Resurrection requires two deaths:
2. The death of our sinful flesh.
3. The death of our human bodies.
4. All humanity will experience the death of our human bodies.
 - a. Except for those alive when Jesus returns, we all will die.
 - b. But not all are willing to die to sin.
 - c. And those not willing to die to sin will not be alive in the Spirit.
 - d. "What you sow does not come alive unless it dies." 1 Cor. 15:36

4. Death is the beginning of life.

A. Because of sin, our bodies will die but the Spirit will give life to this body at the resurrection!

1. And it is the SAME SPIRIT that raised Jesus from the dead.
2. Not a different spirit, a lesser spirit, or a greater spirit.
3. The SAME Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us and gives life to us spiritually and physically.

B. There is no resurrection without death.

1. Romans 6:5 *For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be in the likeness of his resurrection.*

2. Again here in Chapter 8:

¹¹And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then he who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through his Spirit who lives in you.

¹²So then, brothers and sisters, we are not obligated to the flesh to live according to the flesh, ¹³because if you live according to the flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

3. Jesus Himself declared in Matthew 16:24–26 (CSB):

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of me will find it. ²⁶For what will it benefit someone if he gains the whole world yet loses his life? Or what will anyone give in exchange for his life?

C. Could it be that our experience with Jesus is entirely related to our willingness to die to self?

1. Philippians 3:10 (CSB)

¹⁰ My goal is to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death,

2. The more that I die to myself, and my desires, and my flesh, the more fulfilling my relationship with Jesus will be.

3. It's both the fear of death and the temporary power of pain that keeps many of us from fully fulfilling what God is calling us to do.

a. Dying to self is hard.

b. Dying to self is painful.

c. Dying, in general, is no one's favorite topic.

d. Yet, the fear of causes us to avoid death at all costs.

4. There is a powerful quote in the book and mini-series, **Band of Brothers**.

a. In it, an officer named Ronald Speirs tells a young soldier:

b. The only hope you have is to accept the fact that you're already dead. The sooner you accept that, the sooner you'll be able to function as a soldier is supposed to function: without mercy, without compassion, without remorse. All war depends upon it."²

D. Isn't this what the Apostle Paul is saying?

1. You can't function as a believer if you are afraid of death.

2. You can't function as a believer if you consider yourself alive to sin.

² — Stephen E. Ambrose, [Band of Brothers: E Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne from Normandy to Hitler's Eagle's Nest](#)

3. If your flesh isn't dead, then the Spirit isn't alive.
4. "So, you too consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **Romans 6:11** (CSB)

E. The German Theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, said:

1. "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."
Bonhoeffer

2. He also wrote:

Why are we so afraid when we think about death? Death is only dreadful for those who live in dread and fear of it.

Death is not wild and terrible, if only we can be still and hold fast to God's Word. Death is not bitter, if we have not become bitter ourselves. Death is grace, the greatest gift of grace that God gives to people who believe in Him.

3. A body that is dead to sin is not obligated to sin any longer.

5.. So, then...

A. Paul lists the resurrection as one of the greatest reasons why we are not obligated to the flesh.

1. Because the Spirit of life and resurrection lives in us...
2. Because we are dead to sin and our flesh
3. We are not obligated to the flesh.

B. Most importantly, since the Spirit has demonstrated His power over everything, including death, hell, and the grave, we do not have to follow our flesh.

1. You might want to sin.
2. You might want to excuse your flesh.
3. You might want a worldly justification.

4. You might feel that this level of discipline and sacrifice is too painful, too much, or too far.

5. But you are not obligated.

6. A Christian can never say, "I had to sin!"

C. Sometimes sin is like a pushy salesman telling you that there is no obligation but still manipulates, coaxes, and pushes you to make a decision that favors what he's selling.

1. Certainly, there is pressure and difficulty.

2. Sure, we know all about temptation and the tricks of the Evil One.

3. Yes, we know that the enemy forms weapons that do not have the power to prosper, but he still wields them to inflict pain.

4. Sure, we know that this is not easy.

5. But we must embrace pain and suffering as part of the act of being Christian: Verse 16-17

¹⁶The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, ¹⁷and if children, also heirs—heirs of God and coheirs with Christ—if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

D. BUT, because the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

1. **If the Spirit can resurrect Jesus and our future bodies...**

a. Can He not Empower you to resist temptation?

b. Can He not, Heal your body

c. Can He not, Change your life.

d. Can He not, Keep you in hostile places:

Even King David knew this when he wrote that the Lord “prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies.”

2. If the Spirit can resurrect broken bodies, scattered across the battlefields of history...

- a. If the Spirit can resurrect that remains after the process of death and decay...
- b. If the Spirit can cause the seas to give up her dead...
- c. If the Spirit can give sight to people born blind, allowing their first pictures to be of Jesus...
- d. If the Spirit can cause people born lame to walk and run and not grow weary on streets not made by human hands.
- e. If the Spirit can restore what cancer had torn.
- f. If the Spirit can replace amputated limbs, or cause ears to hear, and muted tongues to speak with the words of men and of angels...

3. **THEN HE CAN help you walk in righteousness and holiness.**

- a. He can help you in that nasty marriage.
- b. He CAN provide for you from any source.
- c. He can roll back the rivers of life, even when they are at flood stage.
- d. He can change the hearts of cruel bosses or masters.
- e. He can turn the hearts of wayward children back to their parents.

4. **If the Spirit can raise Jesus from the dead, and that same Spirit lives in you, then why do you choose to live in sin?**

Apply and Pray: Where do I go from here?

A. We rarely attempt to do what we believe is impossible,

1. Living a life not obligated to sin is impossible, on our own.
2. But thanks be to Jesus who does not leave us on our own.
3. That's why He sent the Spirit, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

a. The same Spirit that did the impossible in Jesus' life now lives in you if you are a believer.

b. So what was impossible is now possible through the Spirit.

B. What would happen if we lived through the lens of the Resurrection of Jesus?

1. How should you and I live now that we know that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us?
2. What needs to change, what needs to go, what needs to grow, and what needs to die?

C. Three prayers for our time of prayer:

1. Prayers of revelation (show us what needs to live and what needs to die).

2. Prayers of confession (Lord, I'm sorry for sinning against you and your Spirit, forgive me and change my life)

3. Prayers of empowerment (Lord, I cannot do this by myself nor do I want to. Help me and empower me to live for you.)