

The New Testament Church
The Power of Resurrection Life
April 5, 2025 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Let's revisit Good Friday – **1st Corinthians 15:1-4**; John 19:30 and Luke 23:46

A. The Death and Burial of Christ are the first two points of the Gospel

1. **Death** to the past - **repentance**

- a. “It is finished!” – Christ *submitted* to His Father - perfect sacrifice for our Sin
- b. It was the authority of God's Law that required a sacrifice for sin

2. **Burial** in the present - **forgiveness**

- a. “Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit” – Christ *trusted* His Father
- b. He cried out with a loud voice, and then “yielded up his spirit” (Mt. 27:50)

B. This pattern is throughout creation – due to sin we see death and burial all the time

1. But it is now Spring, and we see new life coming up all around us...
2. God waters our growth through the decaying matter of our sin...
3. We continually ask God to trade our sin for His forgiveness... but there is more
4. We want to live in new life – resurrection life – power that overcame the grave!

II **Resurrection Power** – the third major point of the Gospel - **regeneration**

A. What is resurrection life?

1. It is **GOD!** *The first quality of resurrection life is encountering Christ*

- a. You can only come to Christ if you are drawn by the Holy Spirit
- b. You are also transformed as you daily submit your will, thoughts and emotions to Him and trade them for His will, thoughts and emotions!
- c. Romans 12:1-2 and Galatians 2:20 are two key passages of transformation

2. It is **LIVING IN THE SPIRIT!** *The second quality is living in new life*

- a. We know we must repent for sin, and die to self-daily (applying the cross)
- d. But the goal is not living the crucified life but the *resurrected life!*
- e. We can reign in life – Romans 5:17 – the goal of Christ's death was to reign!

3. It is **WALKING IN UNITY WITH GOD** – *The third quality is harmony*

- a. John 17:21 says “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe”
- b. Jesus has forgiven us, we can ask for forgiveness from others – reconciliation
- c. The mark of walking with God is seeking reconciliation with God and others

B. **Evidence** of the Resurrection that you may believe!

1. **500 eyewitnesses** to his death and resurrection for 40 days following

2. **Transformed disciples** willing to die – including Jesus' half-brother James!

3. **Unity** of the early church that cultivated His presence (Mt. 18:19-20)

- a. His burial Cloth - the Shroud of Turin – capturing the moment of resurrection!
- b. The spear, shoulder and head wounds, holes in wrists and feet, beard plucked out, scourging wounds on back – all give evidence to death, burial and resurrection!
- c. In the wake of the resurrection – *light overcoming darkness, recognition of God's love, and unity with diversity* (all three of which has transformed culture)