

The Resurrection of Christ: The Biggest Breakthrough.

Sermon by Pastor Jamie Peters, Senior Pastor of Trinity Church International, Lake Worth, Florida, USA - Easter 2014

I have known Pastor Jamie Peters for more than twenty-five years. He was a missionary church planter in Africa for most of those years before becoming Senior Pastor of my home church in 2012. He is a trusted friend and outstanding leader. I know you will be blessed by the sermon notes, below. With Pastor Jamie's permission I have taken the liberty of using his notes to create the lesson that follows. He began with the following Scripture:

Luke 24:1-8 (NKJV)

Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. {2} But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. {3} Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. {4} And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this, that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. {5} Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, ⁷saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" {8} And they remembered His words."

The angels asked the women who came to the empty tomb why they were "seeking the living among the dead." They reminded the women that Jesus had predicted He would be alive again on the third day after His death by crucifixion. He defeated death, hell and the grave, just as He said He would. This was the biggest breakthrough the world has ever seen. It would lead to all future breakthroughs for those who believed in and followed Jesus. It was the open door to every one of them. It was the world-changing demonstration of the power of the Gospel! It was demonstrated by His resurrection.

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek."

The Apostle Paul wrote the Corinthians that following the Lord's death, burial and resurrection, there were hundreds of eyewitnesses to Him being alive. All this occurred as the Scriptures had prophesied.

1 Corinthians 15:3-6 (NKJV)

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, {4} and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. {6} After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.”

Paul then wrote that if the preaching of the Gospel was empty, there would be no reason for faith. If the Gospel was not true, there was no hope, and nothing but darkness toward which we all would look ahead.

1 Corinthians 15:14 (NKJV)

“And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”

1 Corinthians 15:17 (NKJV)

“And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.”

Thank God the preaching of the Gospel was full of truth. It's good news. It gives us hope and speaks of a future that is eternal. The Gospel brings us every breakthrough and sets us free because the resurrection is its foundation. Only the power of God could have accomplished this, just as it does in resurrecting hope, healing, jobs, marriages and whatever else we might need. Christ is faithful and His loving sacrifice on the cross, followed by His resurrection, makes all things possible. Because of the resurrection, we have the following blessings:

1. Our sins are forgiven. The cross has removed our sins. God has said He has forgotten them. They are as from God's memory as the east is from the west (and therefore should be from ours too). If you travel toward the east and keep going,

you will never meet the west. If you travel toward the west and keep going, you will never meet the east. In God's heart, they are that far from His memory. For that we can rejoice as we look forward to an eternal lifetime with Him, first here and then in heaven.

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

2. When we accept Christ and acknowledge the work of the cross, the Gospel tells us we are reconciled with God the Father. He is not some distant God you cannot get close to. He is not uncaring or unloving. It was His love that set the events of the cross in motion. It was His love that empowered the resurrection. He is to be honored and worshiped.

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus taught the disciples (and us) how to pray:

***"In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever. Amen."***

In this prayer, we see Jesus' instructions to confess our complete trust in Him, as we declare the Father's holiness in all things. The Father is the ultimate authority over all things created. His love surrounds us with safety, hope and protection. He is to be acknowledged, hallowed and revered in all things.

3. The power of the Gospel can be seen in the great change that happened nineteen hundred and fifty years ago, when Christ

died. The veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom. This represented the removal of the barriers that kept us from access to God. The torn veil confirmed our access. Now, all who follow Jesus have unlimited access to the Father. The door to knowing Him has swung open widely. Now, we can call Him “*Abba*.” This is a term of endearment a trusting and loving child called his natural father in biblical times. This expression is ours to freely use when we talk to the Father.

Eph. 2:12-13 (NKJV)

“that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. {13} But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.”

The Apostle Peter had this to say about us, as children of God, with access to Him whenever we want it:

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NKJV)

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; {10} who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

We have God’s mercy. We can call upon Him, knowing He will answer us. Thank God for the Gospel. It is the power of God, because it contains the divine power of the resurrection.

4. When Jesus overcame death and the grave, we received eternal life through resurrection power. To walk in resurrection power means we identify with the fact that when Christ dies, we died. When He was buried and resurrected, we were too. The Apostle Paul was clear about this in his epistles to the Romans, Galatians and Ephesians.

Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also

The Preaching Ministry of Pastor Jamie Peters

give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Ephesians 2:4-6 (NKJV)

“But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, {5} even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), {6} and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

We identify with sharing Christ through water baptism. It symbolizes the newness of life that we received when we were saved. We testify to this by being immersed in water and coming up again. Baptism helps us to see more fully what it means to identify with the death, burial and resurrection.

Romans 6:1-4 (NKJV)

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ²Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Start everything you do from the point of resurrection power. Partner with the Lord and you will see your breakthroughs.

“Tomb Mode” or “Expectation Mode”?

The “tomb mode” is thinking as if Jesus is still in the tomb. This kind of attitude does not look to the resurrection for its power. Don't live in a “tomb mode.” Breakthrough requires a change of mindset. The angels said to the women, *“Why do you seek the*

living among the dead?" Get into the "expectation mode!" Is anything too difficult for God? No! With an expectation mode of thinking, you will see that all things are possible with God.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"

Ground your thinking in knowing that the power of the Holy Spirit raised Christ from the dead. It will also give eternal life to you. Remember, Romans 8:11 tells us that we don't have to physically die to experience resurrection power. *You* can experience it right now. The key to experiencing resurrection power is to identify with Jesus' death, burial, resurrection and ascension into heaven. He is the King of kings and His name carries His resurrection power. His is the name above every name. Always remember that when you accepted Him as Lord and Savior, He gave you the authority His name commands. Paul prayed this prayer for you:

Ephesians 1:15-23 (NKJV)

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, {16} do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: {17} that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, {18} the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, {19} and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power {20} which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, {21} far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. {22} And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

If you have not made Jesus the Lord of your life, now would be an excellent time to do so. Ask Him to forgive you and then, follow Him with an attitude of expectation for what He will do in you.