

The Resurrection Changes Everything

1 Corinthians 15:12-34 (ESV)

Student Devotional

We live in a culture that constantly preaches this message: “Live for now. Chase what feels good. Avoid what’s hard.”

Because beneath it all, the assumption is this: death ends the story.

But Paul wants to wake us up.

In 1 Corinthians 15, he speaks not as a poet or a preacher—but as a man whose entire life is built on a single, non-negotiable claim: Jesus is alive. And if that’s true—if Christ really walked out of the grave—then nothing can stay the same.

The resurrection is not just the final scene in Jesus’ life. It’s the foundation of yours.

This week, let’s rediscover why the resurrection matters.

Day 1: If Christ Didn’t Rise, Nothing Holds

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.”

(1 Corinthians 15:17, ESV)

Think About It:

What would you say is the foundation of your faith? A feeling? A church tradition? A set of rules? For Paul, it’s one thing: the resurrection.

He lays it out like a courtroom argument. If the dead aren’t raised, then Jesus didn’t rise. And if Jesus didn’t rise, then your faith is pointless. Your sins are unpaid. Your hope is fake.

Think about that. Christianity without resurrection isn’t just weakened—it’s shattered. It means the cross failed. The grave won. The apostles lied. And we’ve been worshiping a dead man.

But Paul’s not writing this to discourage. He’s writing to strip away the fluff and ask: What do you really believe? If Jesus didn’t rise, then YOLO makes sense. But if He did, then every moment echoes with eternal meaning.

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Don't settle for a shallow faith that loves Jesus' words but forgets His wounds. The gospel is only good news if death was defeated—and it was.

Pray It:

Jesus, help me feel the weight of what's at stake in the resurrection. Strip away anything false in my faith—and rebuild me on the truth that You live.

Do It:

Write a short journal entry today answering this question honestly: If Christ had not risen, what would change in your beliefs or life? Let that clarify what you're standing on.

Day 2: Because He Rose, You Will Too

“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV)

Think About It:

This verse explodes with hope. Paul isn't theorizing anymore. He declares it: Christ has been raised.

Not spiritually. Not metaphorically. Historically. Bodily. Eternally.

And because He rose, we will too. That's what “firstfruits” means. In the Old Testament, it referred to the first sheaf of the harvest—a promise that more was coming. Jesus is that promise. His empty tomb is your future preview.

Your story doesn't end in a hospital room. It doesn't end in a casket. If you belong to Christ, your body will rise in glory. No more death. No more weakness. No more fracture between soul and flesh.

This changes everything. You don't have to be paralyzed by fear. You don't have to cling to comfort. You don't have to waste your life trying to extend it—because eternal life has already been secured.

Let the resurrection free you to live differently now.

Pray It:

Risen King, thank You that Your resurrection means mine is coming too. Help me live with eternal courage, knowing death doesn't get the last word.

Do It:

Memorize 1 Corinthians 15:20 today. Let it interrupt anxious thoughts and shallow fears with unshakable hope.

Day 3: Let Death Hear Your Defiance

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:26, ESV)

Think About It:

Death is loud. It shouts in headlines, in diagnoses, in heartbreak. It stalks our joy and mocks our peace.

But Jesus doesn’t ignore death—He conquers it.

Paul calls death “the last enemy,” and says Christ will crush it. Fully. Finally. Forever. That’s not just poetic—it’s prophetic. It’s a promise written in blood and sealed with an empty tomb.

This isn’t just comfort when we grieve—it’s fuel while we fight. You can forgive what feels unforgivable. You can persevere through suffering. You can preach even when mocked. Because you know: every act of faith will echo past the grave.

You were not made for survival. You were made for resurrection.

Pray It:

Jesus, thank You that death has an expiration date. Fill me with resurrection defiance—not to deny pain, but to walk through it with faith and fire.

Do It:

Send a message to someone grieving or struggling today. Remind them that death doesn’t have the last word—and neither does despair.

Day 4: Let the Future Reshape Your Present

“I die every day!” (1 Corinthians 15:31, ESV)

Think About It:

Paul wasn’t exaggerating. His ministry brought him face-to-face with danger, rejection,

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beatings, prison, and hunger. But he kept going. Why? Because he knew this life wasn't all there is.

If there's no resurrection, that's insanity. But if the tomb is empty—then suffering becomes a seed. Sacrifice becomes strategic. Obedience becomes a down payment on eternal joy.

Paul wasn't addicted to pain. He was anchored in promise. And he's asking you: What are you living for that would still matter 10,000 years from now?

The resurrection doesn't just give you hope for the end of life. It gives you purpose in the middle of it.

Pray It:

Lord, I don't want to waste my life chasing ease. Help me live like someone who really believes death is defeated. Let my everyday choices be shaped by eternity.

Do It:

Identify one area where you're clinging to comfort more than Christ. Ask Him to help you let go of that fear—and take one small act of obedience today.

Day 5: Wake Up and Live Awake

“Wake up from your drunken stupor... do not go on sinning.” (1 Corinthians 15:34, ESV)

Think About It:

This is Paul at his most direct. He sees what's happening in Corinth—not just bad theology, but spiritual sleepwalking. People who say they believe in resurrection... but live like the grave is the end.

And so he says: Wake up. Shake off the fog. The gospel isn't a bedtime story—it's a battle cry.

When resurrection is real, sin can't be casual. Mission can't be optional. Worship can't be half-hearted.

Living awake means living alert. Alert to the lies of comfort culture. Alert to the pull of compromise.

Alert to the fact that eternity is coming—and it's more real than anything on your screen.

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You were made for more than surviving. You were made for resurrection fire.

Pray It:

Father, wake me up. Clear my mind, reawaken my heart, and fill me with urgency that reflects the truth of eternity.

Do It:

Spend 10 minutes today in silence with no phone, no music, no distractions. Ask God to show you where you've been drifting—and how He wants you to live awake.

Conclusion: Live Like He's Alive

The resurrection is not just a past event. It's a present power. It's not just the end of Jesus' story—it's the beginning of yours.

If Christ is risen, then you are forgiven, empowered, and destined for glory. If Christ is risen, then comfort is not your god, death is not your master, and sin is not your identity.

So live like it.

Let the resurrection shape your risk.

Let it fuel your obedience.

Let it steady your grief.

Let it sharpen your witness.

This world is not your finish line—it's your mission field.