

Pastor Mark Mikels - February 12, 2012

“POWER FOR LIVING”

(Experiencing Resurrection Power In Everyday Life)

(Philippians 3:10)

Intro ... In 56 days it will be Easter Sunday ... I pray we will arrive on that Resurrection Sunday different people than we are today. I pray that these next 56 days will be powerfully used by the Spirit of God. I pray that throughout these next 56 days, we will involve ourselves and renew ourselves in ways that we never imagined or thought possible. I pray that over these next 56 days we will experience genuine “Resurrection Power”.

I pray that over the next 56 days we will actually experience that which the Apostle Paul himself said he longed to experience. Remember what he wrote to the believers in Philippi (Philippians 3:10) ...

“I want to know him and the Power of His Resurrection”

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead brought a brand-new kind of power into the world and that power has never left.

You see, the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead was a unique power – a magnificent power – a transformational power. It re-energized Christ’s broken, wounded, nail-scarred body and transformed it into a glorious, immortal body, never to be subject to death again.

It was an awesome thing that happened in the Garden Tomb as Easter Dawn was about to break ... In 56 days we will gather in celebration of that awesome event – we do every year.

But did you catch what I said a moment ago ...

“The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead brought a brand-new kind of power into the world and that power has never left”.

This kind of power having once been released (as it were) from Heaven’s Armory has done much more (and made possible much, much more) than just “The *Emptying of Calvary’s Tomb*”.

The kind of power God released that Resurrection Day has remained available ever since – making possible some of the most amazing things.

Consider these **Key Series Texts** with me ...

Speaking of the **conversion** experience – that miraculous “born-again” moment Paul says in our ...

KEY SERIES TEXT #1 ...

*“That **POWER** is like the working of his mighty strength which he exerted in Christ when he **RAISED** him from the **DEAD** ...”*

(Ephesians 1:19-20)

Our Glorious Heavenly Father (the Scripture tells us) did not and would not allow his Obedient Son to “*see corruption*” (Ps. 16:10)... Long before Christ’s Body began to decay, resurrection power was at work within it.

Likewise He who would be our Heavenly Father has not and will not allow those who become His Children to “*experience condemnation*” ...

Long before the torments of judgment would fall upon them, God unleashed his mighty Resurrection Power to bring life to them!

All who have been “*born by faith into the Family of God*” have experienced God’s Resurrection Power in their lives ... He has lifted them from “*spiritual death*” and placed within them “*spiritual life.*” Salvation comes in a flood of transformational power ...

Paul would triumphantly declare to the believers in Corinth ...

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
The old has gone – the new has come!”*

Is it any wonder that Jesus himself referred to it as being “*born all over again*” ... God’s transformational Resurrection Power truly “*transforms*” everything it touches.

But here now is a **key point** ...

The transformational resurrection power that lifts us from spiritual death into true spiritual life is intended to do more (much, much more) than just (as it were) “*get us out of the tomb*”.

Here’s what the Apostle Peter had to say in our ...

KEY SERIES TEXT #2 ...

*“His divine power has given us **EVERYTHING**
we need for **LIFE** and **GODLINESS** ...”*

(2 Peter 1:3)

Notice it doesn't say that his divine power has **given us** life and godliness – it says it gave us everything we **need** for life and godliness ... that is, everything we need to obtain and experience a truly abundant life characterized by genuine God-pleasing godliness.

It's like a teenager asking mom if she made supper and mom saying ...

*“No, I didn't; but I put everything needed to make supper
on the counter in the kitchen.”*

Resurrection Power has been released into this world – it raised Christ from physical death and it has raised us from spiritual death and it is *“on the counter”* in the kitchen of our hearts available whenever we would avail ourselves of it. It holds transformational possibilities and those possibilities become realities whenever we take hold of it.

Thus the sub-title of this Easter Series ...

“Experiencing Resurrection Power In Everyday Life”

I want these next 56 days to be **“Days of Resurrection”** for all of us ... days in which we carefully examine the level of life-force we possess in several specific areas of life.

In some of them we will hopefully discover that our level is high and our testimony for Christ strong. In others we might well discover that our level is low and our testimony is minimal at best.

I've chosen the areas – I've made up the list – I've checked it twice. I'm heading week by week into this relying upon the very power we are talking about to grant me insight and ability and maybe even a bit of courage.

It might well require the same of you ... But I invite all of you to join with me in 56 *“Days of Resurrection”* that we might arrive on Easter Sunday more *“Alive in Christ”* than we have ever been before.

Today we announce our intention and our direction ... but ***here's the point*** expressed in our ...

SERIES KEY CONCEPT ...

RESURRECTION, that is, the production of genuine God-Pleasing Goodness and Life-Enhancing Abundance, will **ONLY HAPPEN** in our lives as we earnestly **SEEK** to **MAKE** it happen.

Each week there will be *“Questions to Consider”* and *“Decisions to Make”* and then some *“Steps to Take”*.

God himself will be watching to see if we do indeed take advantage of the power He has made available to us to “*Resurrect Ourselves*” (as it were) in any area where our “Life in Christ” – our spiritual life-force - has dipped to a dangerously low level.

Here then are this week’s:

Questions to Consider ...

- * Am I **CONTENT** with the level of Christian Living that I am currently on?
- * Are there **AREAS** in my life where I am more dead than alive?

Take some time this week to seriously consider those two questions.

Are you truly content with the manner in which you are living out your faith in Christ in your day by day life? What would you consider to be the various “areas” that this series of messages will probably divide your life into? Are there any such ‘areas of life’ where (for you) the “Resurrection Power” of Christ has barely penetrated?

The truth is ...these messages might well stir up some discontent as we consider what true “Resurrection Life” actually looks and feels like. Be prepared to honestly analyze your life from a Biblical perspective.

This week we also have some:

Decisions to Make ...

- * Am I ready to **INVESTIGATE** what it means to **APPLY** Resurrection Power to my everyday life?
- * Will I **EMBRACE** the **DISCOVERIES** I make?

We might read some scriptures and address some issues that you have not considered before. We might make some suggestions based upon those Scriptures that go beyond anything that you have done before.

It will take an open mind and a willing spirit to take a fresh look at the very nature of the Christian Life – to be willing to see all of life from a Biblical and Christ-Honoring perspective.

It will also take an open mind and a willing spirit as well as an energized heart, to embrace the discoveries we make and to incorporate them into our lives.

And now for this very first week – the first seven days of our “Resurrection Adventure” – here are three specific ...

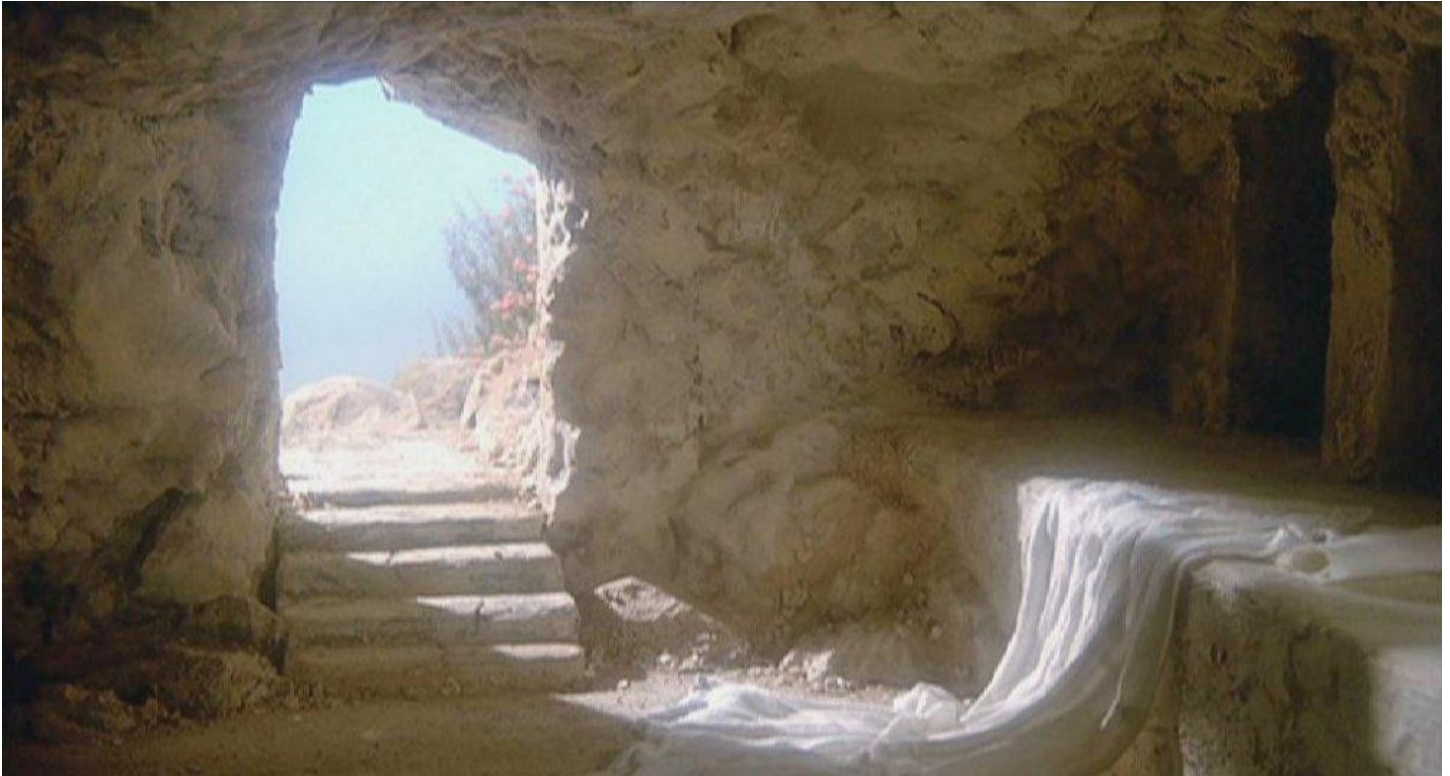
Steps to Take ...

* **PRAY** each day this week for **SENSITIVITY** to God's **VOICE**

Ask God to sharpen the ears of your heart – Ask God to prepare you to be excited by the sound of His Voice speaking to you and directing your path.

* **PICTURE** yourself emerging from the **TOMB**

Make the image that is on the screen right now one that captivates your mind's eye ...



See yourself leaving any number of “grave clothes” behind – things that bind you up and limit you – and walking out into the light of a brand-new day of Christian Living.

* **PREPARE** to experience **GROWTH**

Simply believe that there is no way you can invest yourself consciously and purposefully in this 56 day pursuit and not experience significant growth in your life. Prepare to be a stronger, more lively ‘Follower of Jesus’ on Easter Sunday than you are today. God will bless you as you make the journey.

Final Thot ... Those who have been truly **RESURRECTED** by God to New Life In Christ should be (and will be) continually applying **RESURRECTION POWER** in every **REALM** of **LIFE**.