

The Meaning of the Resurrection

1. On Good Friday, during the Passover Festival, Jesus atoned for the sins of the world. On the Sunday, God raised him from the dead. For 40 days Jesus appeared to his disciples. Then he ascended into heaven. Ten days later, at the festival of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to every believer.

How are all those events connected?

2. In his Pentecost sermon, Peter said: *'God released (Jesus) from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip'* (Acts 2:24).

Paul wrote: *'Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died'* (1 Cor 15:20). And, *'But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ'* (1 Cor 15:57).

How does the thought that Christ has given victory over death make you feel? How does it help you approach death?

3. Peter said: *'God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this'* (Acts 2:32). After that, Peter and the other disciples risked their lives telling people Christ had risen.

- What does that tell us?
- In light of it, what would you say to someone who said, 'The resurrection is only a symbol of new life.'

4. Peter said: *'Now he is exalted to the place of highest honour in heaven, at God's right hand'* (Acts 2:33).

How do you feel about Christ exalted?

5. Peter said: *'So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!'* (Acts 2:36).

Peter did not mean that God now made Jesus Lord and God. He meant that God had vindicated Jesus. God had confirmed who Jesus is. Paul wrote: *'He was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord'* (Rom 1:4).

- What does it tell us about how we should relate with Jesus?
- What does it tell us about the place we should give Jesus in our church and in our lives?

5. On another day Peter said: *'The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead . . . Then God put him in the place of honour at his right hand as Prince and Saviour'* (Acts 2:30-31).

Do you think Jesus wants us to tell people he is the Saviour?