

# LIVING HOPE

April 21, 2019

Introduction: Jesus has risen! He has risen indeed! Easter is often associated with bunnies and eggs. But Easter is much more than its commercial branding. Easter is about life, not just eternal life, but a life of resurrected power now. *“For us to live is Christ.” “Christ is the resurrection and the life.”* Therefore, we have been born again into this living hope – a hope fully realized because the grave could not contain our Lord and Savior. Happy Easter everyone!

Scripture Reading: John 11:25-26

<sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though *he* die, yet shall *he* live,** <sup>26</sup> **and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”** (John 11:25–26).

## Everyone Carries Resurrection Power

*Blessed and holy is the **one who shares in the first resurrection!** Over such the second death **has no power...*** (Revelation 20:6a).

<sup>13</sup> He has **delivered us** from the domain of darkness and **transferred us** to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom **we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him **all things** were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things** were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before **all things**, and in him **all things** hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything** he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to **reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:13–20).

## Everyone Carries Resurrection Power

### I. Living Hope

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us **to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ** from the dead, <sup>4</sup> **to an inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God’s power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> **In this you rejoice,** though now for a little while, if necessary, **you have been grieved by various trials** (1 Peter 1:3-6)

## Everyone Carries Resurrection Power

### II. Wake Up!

for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you**” (Ephesians 5:14).

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come **for you to wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed (Romans 13:11).

<sup>20</sup> as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain** (Philippians 1:20–21).

### III. We Share in the Christ’s Resurrection Power Now

“Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, **when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live** (John 5:25).

#### A. Our Goal: A life with God.

<sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).

#### B. Our Purpose: A life of resurrection power.

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**? <sup>4</sup> **We were buried** therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, **just as Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life**. <sup>5</sup> For if we have **been united with him in a death like his**, we shall certainly be **united with him in a resurrection like his**. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin (Romans 6:3–6).

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(Revelation 20:6a) (Colossians 1:13–20)

I. Living Hope (1 Peter 1:3-6)

II. Wake Up! (Ephesians 5:14) (Romans 13:11) (Philippians 1:20–21)

III. We Share in the Christ’s Resurrection Power Now (John 5:25)

A. Our Goal: A life with \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Corinthians 3:18).

B. Our Purpose: A life of \_\_\_\_\_. (Romans 6:3–6).

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