

TRANSFORMING LOVE

Easter Devotion Series

DEVOTION 4

A Transformed Life: Easter Sunday

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Of all the things Jesus is quoted as saying, the parables He told, how He confronted the powerful and knowledgeable, and the probing questions He asked, one of the most outlandish was when He predicted His own death and resurrection.

In Matthew 16:21 we read that Jesus spoke 'plainly' to the disciples so as to avoid ambiguity. He made it quite clear what awaited Him in Jerusalem which included this reality: He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead.

It's audacious to even say that, but it's another unfathomable feat to actually do it! But it's on this reality that the entire story of God, of us, of salvation, of grace pivots. He said He would die, He said He would raise to life again, and He did.

This powerful act of love and rescue. His surrendered life, His resolute generosity, His desperate desire for reconciliation and redemption finding expression in the day that changed history. Ours, yours; mine.

His resurrection confirms for us His deity. Even death is powerless against His love. His resurrection secures our eternal future and hope. And His resurrection opens the door to a different way of living. Victory, recovery, and wholeness are made possible.

Transformation is possible.

**...THE SPIRIT OF
HIM WHO RAISED
JESUS FROM THE
DEAD IS LIVING
IN YOU....**

ROMANS 8:11

Romans 8:11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. Paul points out that the power that makes resurrection possible is gifted us through the Holy Spirit. At work in us to change us into the likeness of Christ and to impact the places and people around us with His love.

It's probably easy to identify the places in our lives and our world that are in need of the transforming power of God. Anxiety, broken relationships, trauma, grief, loss, addiction, mental ill-health, uncertainty about the future, financial pressures, injustices of all kinds. These are the realities of life this side of Heaven. These are the challenges that confront us with regularity and wearying intensity.

Through the power of the resurrection, Jesus offers us an alternate way. The empowerment to overcome sin, fear, and hopelessness is available to us. We are invited to trust the promises of God and walk boldly into the new life He died and rose to secure for us.

The same power that rose Christ from the grave lives in you!

Questions for reflection/discussion

- When you reflect on the idea that Jesus predicted His death and resurrection ... and then it actually happened ... what does it mean for you? How do you consider other things He said or did? What part does His prediction play in your understanding of the resurrection?
- Paul prays that we would 'understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.' (Eph 1:19,20 NLT) How do you recognize or comprehend the incredible greatness of God's power? What stories have you experienced or seen that testify to this? Who can you be sharing those stories with?
- Understanding that God's Spirit is in us to bring transformation by His power, love and grace, what areas of your life do you most need to see transformation?
- In a world where anxiety, loneliness, fear, conflict, injustice and other tensions are on the rise, how does the transforming power of the resurrection speak to the needs of emerging generations as they face these challenges? What opportunities are there around us to share the greatness of God's power?