



**A New Hope Dawns  
April 16 & 17, 2022**

#### **4 Undeniable Facts About the Resurrection:**

- **Thomas was an unbeliever until he saw the resurrected Jesus.**

##### **John 20:25, 27-28 (TPT)**

“Still unconvinced, Thomas replied, ‘There’s no way I’m going to believe this unless I personally see the wounds of the nails in his hands, touch them with my finger, and put my hand into the wound of his side where he was pierced!’... Then, looking into Thomas’ eyes, he said, ‘Put your finger here in the wounds of my hands. Here—put your hand into my wounded side and see for yourself. Thomas, don’t give in to your doubts any longer, just believe!’ Then the words spilled out of his heart—‘You are my Lord, and you are my God!’”

- **James did not believe his half-brother to be Lord until the resurrection.**

##### **John 7:5 (TPT)**

“His brothers were pushing him, even though they didn’t yet believe in him as the Savior.”

- **515 witnesses who lost their faith at the crucifixion, saw Jesus after his resurrection.** (*They ate with him, walked with him, talked with him and were transformed.*)

##### **1 Corinthians 15:6 (TPT)**

“He also appeared to more than five hundred of his followers at the same time, most of whom are still alive as I write this, though a few have passed away.”

- **I have personally experienced transformation and witnessed the transformation of countless lives through the power of my resurrected Lord.**

##### **2 Timothy 1:11-12 (ESV)**

“As an appointed preacher and apostle this is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.”

#### **Jesus’ Resurrection Gives Believers 6 Hopeful Promises:**

### **1 The promise that we have been completely forgiven.**

##### **Ephesians 1:7 (ICB)**

“In Christ we are set free by the blood of his death. And so we have forgiveness of sins because of God’s rich grace.”

##### **Who put Jesus on the cross?**

##### **Twofold answer:**

- **First - God did.**

##### **Isaiah 53:6-10 (NLT)**

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people. He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave. But it was the LORD’s good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD’s good plan will prosper in his hands.”

- **Second - We did!**

##### **Romans 4:25 (NLT)**

“He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.”

### **2 The promise that death is nothing to fear.**

##### **John 11:25 (NLT)**

“Jesus told her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.’”

##### **2 Peter 1:16 (ICB)**

“We have told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. What we told you were not just smart stories that someone invented. But we saw the greatness of Jesus with our own eyes.”

##### **Acts 1:3 (LB)**

“For 40 days after his death Jesus appeared to people many times in many ways that prove beyond doubt that he was alive. They saw him, and he talked with them about the kingdom of God.”

##### **1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NLT)**

“...He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time...”

### **3 The promise that God’s Holy Spirit lives inside every believer.**

### **Acts 1:8 (NLT)**

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### **Ephesians 1:19-20 (LB)**

“...and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...”

## **4 The promise that God loves me with an everlasting love.**

### **Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)**

“Long ago the LORD said to Israel: ‘I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.’”

### **John 3:16-17 (NLT)**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.”

### **John 13:34-35 (NLT)**

“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.”

### **1 John 3:10-11 (NLT)**

“So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God. This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”

## **5 The promise that God created me on purpose and for His purposes.**

### **Psalms 138:8 (ESV)**

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”

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“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

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“And I’m going to keep that celebration going because I know how it’s going to turn out. Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done. I can hardly wait to continue on my course. I don’t expect to be embarrassed in the least. On the contrary, everything happening to me in this jail only serves to make Christ more accurately known, regardless of whether I live or die. They didn’t shut me up; they gave me a platform! Alive, I’m Christ’s messenger; dead, I’m his prize. Life versus even more life! I can’t lose.”

## **6 The promise of our eternal home awaiting us in heaven.**

### **What is heaven going to be like?**

#### **One word - Indescribable.**

### **1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)**

“That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.’”

### **How do I get these promises and the guarantee of heaven?**

### **John 14:1-6 (NLT)**

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. And you know the way to where I am going.’ ‘No, we don’t know, Lord,’ Thomas said. ‘We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”



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