

## LIFE IN HIM

Andy Deane · 10/02/2022 · John 20

Today's Scriptures show us how to persevere through common struggles that come up during our spiritual journey, like confusion, grief, fear, & doubts. Visit [go2cornerstone.com/resurrection](http://go2cornerstone.com/resurrection) to read 10 quotes on the resurrection.

### THE RESURRECTION MEANS:

#### #1 We don't have to let confusion discourage us.

John 20:1-10, <sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" <sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

1. Bring your confusion to your spiritual community (20:2)
  - Application: Join a Life Group
  - Text "GROUP" to 951-425-4425
2. Allow confusion to lead to deeper research of truth (20:6)
3. Sometimes confusion is due to a lack of knowing Scripture (20:9)
  - Application: Join the Explore the Bible class (Studying Jonah)
  - Text "JONAH" to 951-425-4425

#### #2 We don't have to let grief beat us.

John 20:11-18, <sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb<sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. <sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

1. Weeping over death, loss, pain & evil is normal and ok (13)
2. The Bible doesn't say we should not grieve, but that we should grieve with hope!
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13, Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.
  - John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
  - Application: Join the Grief Share group
  - Text "GRIEF" to 951-425-4425
3. When you're hurting, go back to where you last experienced Jesus (20:11)
  - James 4:8, Come near to God and he will come near to you.
4. In grief we can sometimes miss God's presence & instead feel He is absent (20:14)

5. In sadness we must cling to Jesus more than ever (20:17)
6. When you're ready, pass on to others the comfort God has given you (20:18)

### #3 We don't have to let fear paralyze us.

John 20:19-23, <sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

1. Fear is better conquered around other people who love you (19a)
2. Jesus promises to show up & give us peace (19b)  
Matthew 18:20, *For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.*
3. The peace was in Jesus' presence in a private room, but would also be experienced outside on mission (21)
4. The Holy Spirit is in us as we boldly proclaim God's truth (22-23)

### #4 We don't have to let doubts derail us.

John 20:24-29, <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

1. We all have different experiences (like Thomas) and are on separate journeys (24)
2. We should give time, space & support to those who have doubts (26)
3. Jesus isn't mad at us when we doubt. He helps us. (27)
4. Not only is questioning normal, it is often a path toward a rich & vibrant faith. (28)
  - Application: Read *When Faith Fails* by Dominic Done
  - You can find it on Amazon.com

### #5 Life in His name transforms us.

John 20:30-31, <sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

1. The goal isn't just inward belief, but outward life change!
  - The resurrection of Jesus means that God can do just that!
  - Ephesians 1:19-20, ...*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...*
  - Application: Attend the Discipleship Group interest meeting on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Text "DISCIPLE" to 951-425-4425