

Templates of Truth with Rick Smith
Audio Script – April 9, 2009

Did you ever wish you could just start all over again? Erase the last conversation? Undo what you have done? Easter Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection, but it's more than just a historical event. In today's Templates of Truth, we think about resurrection power and how it still affects our lives after more than 2,000 years.

Scripture teaches that two ladies came to the tomb of Jesus three days after he was interned to apply more preservatives to His body. They were shocked to discover his body missing! Two angels suddenly appeared to the women and said to them: *why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen* (Luke 24:5-6). The one foundational truth that distinguishes Christianity from all other religions of the world is the resurrection. The gods of all other world religions still have remains in human graves. Only in Christianity can you point to an empty tomb and a resurrected, living Lord!

We understand how this historical fact relates to our Easter celebration, but what else does the resurrection mean to us? It means new life. Paul wrote, *we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so too we might walk in newness of life* (Romans 6:4). Resurrection power is demonstrated through our salvation as we leave our old life of sin behind, and take on the new eternal life that Christ has imparted to us. Jesus said, *I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die* (John 11:25).

It also means new beginnings. In His grace and mercy, God gives us many opportunities to start again with Him. His resurrection power can take the messes we often make in life, clean them up, and give them a fresh, new start – extreme makeovers, if you please. Has fault and failure destroyed or crippled some area of your life? Christ can resurrect your marriage, your career, your finances, your family, your health. His resurrection power can remake and restore what sin and human frailty has ruined. He can reinvent your plans, goals and dreams in life. He can redirect your purposes and avenues in life. He can redefine your identity; and God can renew & revive your weakened condition whether it is physically, emotionally or spiritually. Resurrection power gives you new life and meaning.

It also gives us the promise of a new body! Jesus said, *this is the will of the Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day* (John 6:40). At the time of the Rapture, the graves of God's people shall open and those who have died in Christ shall be resurrected. This is when our mortal bodies will be transformed into an immortal body that is appropriate for physical existence in heaven. It will be a body that will never age, never become infected with disease, never feel pain and will never again die. Best of all, it will never again house the fleshly nature that gives us the propensity toward sin and evil.

Even creation will be touched with resurrection power. John, in his Revelation vision, *saw a*

new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away (Revelation 21:1). The mountains, the seas, the brilliant meadows and blazing sunsets – as beautiful as they are – will all be resurrected with a majesty and glory never beheld with human eyes! Sin has corrupted creation, but God will resurrect our planet from its global warming, and deliver it from its quakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and unstable environmental conditions. The resurrected planet will have a quality of air never before inhaled into human lungs. It will never be too hot or too cold. It will never know decay. Flowers will never wilt. Leaves will never fall off trees. Waters will no longer be salty, but will flow with a crystal clear spring of life – a true fountain of youth! As Paul declared, our resurrected planet will have *things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him* (I Corinthians 2:9). The resurrected earth will be heaven on earth!

Resurrection power is still being demonstrating beyond the event over 2,000 years ago from a tomb in Jerusalem. It is being demonstrated in the lives of God's people and through the work of His church day after day. How is resurrection power being made manifest in your life? How you tapped into to the power of the resurrection?

That's today's Templates of Truth. This is your Bible teacher, Rick Smith, reminding you to attend church this Sunday for Bible study and worship, pray for one another, and always strive to abide. Until next time, have a blessed and glorious day in Christ Jesus.

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