

4 Benefits of Easter

1. Forgiveness for Past Sins

The Bible says that “Jesus was handed over to be crucified for the forgiveness of our sins and was raised back to life to prove that he had made us right with God!” (Romans 4:25, TPT).

The blood of the Cross is the means of our justification. The resurrection gives us the assurance that Jesus has overcome death and proves that God now sees all believers in Christ as righteous in His eyes.

The publication of the outcome of the Battle of Waterloo is like a retelling of the Easter story.

After the Battle of Waterloo in June 1815 all England was waiting for news about the outcome of the campaign. The Duke of Wellington had opposed Napoleon Bonaparte in this battle. Of course, this was long before the telegraph, telephone, or television, and watchers were stationed along the coast to read the semaphore (i.e., flag) signals from the first returning sailing vessels.

It was a cloudy, foggy day but, finally, one watcher spied a sailing vessel beginning to signal a message. The message read: “Wellington defeated,” and then the fog closed in again.

This message was relayed all across England and the nation was gripped by discouragement and defeat.

Hours later, however, the fog lifted, and the entire message came through: “Wellington defeated the enemy!”

Discouragement was banished and the nation rejoiced in the good news.

This story perfectly illustrates the state of mind of the disciples when Jesus died. Jesus had made the claim that he was God.

He said that he had come to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10), and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

He said that he had come so that his people might have life, and have it to the full (John 10:10).

He said that whoever was thirsty—spiritually thirsty—could come to him and be refreshed (John 4:13-14; 6:35; 7:37).

He said that whoever would follow him would never walk in darkness, but would have the light of life (John 8:12).

He said that he had come to give eternal life to his people (John 10:28). But then he was crucified.

It was a terrible day. At noon the sun suddenly disappeared and everything became frighteningly dark. There was an earthquake. Events took place that caused even the Roman centurion to exclaim, “Surely he was the Son of God!” (Matthew 27:54).

Then Jesus died and his body was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57-60). The message that rang out to all the world was: “Jesus defeated! Jesus defeated!” And all the disciples were gripped by discouragement and defeat.

But then, three days later on Easter Sunday morning, came the resurrection! Three days after Jesus was buried, he rose physically and bodily from the grave. Then the entire message came through: “Jesus defeated the enemy!” The discouragement of the disciples was banished and they rejoiced at the good news.

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The resurrection was God's stamp of approval and vindication of Jesus' work. It was God saying, "Jesus, I accept your death as a substitute for guilty sinners."

2. Power for Present Living

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Jesus is alive, and so he is able to help us in our time of need.

For some of us believers that are stuck in Good Friday due to life circumstances, we must remember that we are not Jesus. Indeed, Jesus Christ died, was buried on God Friday, but He defeated death and rose up on Easter Sunday, and He ever lives to intercede for us (Hebrews 7:25)! However long your Good Friday may last, your Easter Sunday will surely come! And it is here with you! Hallelujah!!!

Jesus' resurrection guarantees power for daily living. No matter what difficulty, no matter what trial, no matter what the hardship, Jesus empowers his people for daily living so that they can say with the apostle Paul, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

3. Victorious Hope

The resurrection of Jesus gives us eternal hope.

"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." (1Corinthians 15:13-19)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1Peter 1:3)

"By his power God raised Jesus from the dead, and he will raise us also" (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Before His crucifixion Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." (John 14:1-2)

Eric Barker was a missionary who spent many years in Portugal preaching the good news of the gospel, often under adverse conditions. During World War II, the situation became so critical that he was advised to send his wife and eight children back to England for their safety. His sister and her three children were also evacuated on the same ship. Although his family was forced to leave, he stayed behind to finish

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the work before going to join them in England.

On the Lord's Day after their departure, the Rev. Barker stood before his congregation and said, "I have just received word that all my family arrived home safely!" Then, he proceeded with the worship service as usual.

It was not until after worship service was over that the full meaning of the Rev. Barker's words became clear. You see, just before the worship service started, he had received a telegram informing him that a submarine had torpedoed the ship on which his family was sailing, and everyone on board drowned.

Eric Barker knew that because everyone in his family had trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, they had in fact arrived safely home—their heavenly home. And although he was overcome by grief, he knew that by God's grace he had a sure hope of one day being reunited with his family.

This is the hope that the resurrection gives to those of us who know Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Saviour. We will be raised back to life and we will find ourselves at home with Jesus in heaven for all eternity.

4. Unfettered Access to the heavenly realm

"And now we are brothers and sisters in God's family because of the blood of Jesus, and he welcomes us to come right into the most holy sanctuary in the heavenly realm—boldly and with no hesitation. For he has dedicated a new, life-giving way for us to approach God. For just as the veil was torn in two, Jesus' body was torn open to

give us free and fresh access to him!" (Hebrews 10:19-20 TPT).

This access is open to all saints. There is hope for all our prodigals who would return.

"So then, prepare your hearts and minds for action! Stay alert and fix your hope firmly on the marvellous grace that is coming to you. For when Jesus Christ is unveiled, a greater measure of grace will be released to you." (1Peter 1:13 TPT)

"The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2)

Death may end life, but resurrection defeats death with no return match!!!

Jesus said to Martha "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying." (John 11:25)

Resurrection is more powerful than death!!!

Is there any prodigal in your family? Any still dead in sin and trespasses? Never give up on such. The resurrection power of Jesus is still active today, and He is able to draw anyone to Himself and give them eternal life.

Thanks for your partnership with us in building strong families and raising godly seeds unto the Lord.

Happy Easter!!!

Your co-labourer,

Chuks Aniereobi