

GROW: It Starts with Resurrection

Dr. John Carmichael

[Rom 6:4 NASB95] 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

[Jhn 12:24 NASB95] 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

- Easter is the celebration of the greatest moment in history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The stone was rolled away, death was defeated, and the grave lost its power.
- But Easter is not just about what happened to Jesus...it's about what happens in us.
- Jesus did not rise just to prove He is God: He rose so that we could receive new life.
- And here is the truth most people miss: The resurrection is not just an event to celebrate it is a life to step into. Because when something comes alive... it is meant to grow.

If Jesus has brought me from death to life, what does that mean for how I live now?

Let's look at what the resurrection actually does in us, and why new life always leads to growth.

I. YOU WERE DEAD, BUT NOW YOU ARE ALIVE

- [Eph 2:1, 4-5 NASB95] 1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ... 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- [Rom 6:4 NASB95] 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- [2Co 5:17 NASB95] 17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [he is] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- Before Christ, we were not just struggling; we were spiritually dead.
- No life. No connection. No ability to grow.
- But through the resurrection:
 - You were made alive
 - You were raised with Christ
 - You were given a new beginning
- Resurrection is not self-improvement; it is transformation.
- Application: Stop identifying with your past self. Stop speaking "I'm just this way." Begin declaring: "I am alive in Christ." Sign up for water baptism this Wed., April 8.
- You don't manage death; you step into life.
- Dead things don't grow but living things do.

II. ALIVE THINGS ARE DESIGNED TO GROW

- [Jhn 12:24 NASB95] 24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- [Rom 12:2 NASB95] 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.
- Growth is not optional for a believer; it is the evidence of life.
- If something is alive: it develops, it changes, it produces

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- e. Application: Refuse spiritual stagnation. Ask: "Am I growing, or just existing?" Take one intentional step this week (Word, prayer, church, etc.)
- f. Growth doesn't happen accidentally; it happens intentionally.
- g. If there is life in you, there should be growth coming out of you.

III. THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT WHO RESURRECTED JESUS LIVES IN YOU

- a. [Rom 8:11 NASB95] 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.
- b. [Tit 3:5 NASB95] 5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,
- c. The Holy Spirit resurrected Jesus will resurrect you. He renews us. Not by our own power or will. Only through our surrender to Him do we experience renewal.
- d. The Holy Spirit will produce in you what is necessary for you to grow.
- e. Learn to yield to the Holy Spirit. Pray in the Spirit. Listen to the Holy Spirit.

IV. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR GROWTH

- a. [Phl 1:6 NASB95] 6 [For I am] confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- b. [Mar 4:26-29 NASB95] 26 And He was saying, "The kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil; 27 and he goes to bed at night and gets up by day, and the seed sprouts and grows--how, he himself does not know. 28 "The soil produces crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, then the mature grain in the head. 29 "But when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."
- c. You don't have to force growth; you participate in it.
- d. God: starts the work, sustains the work, finishes the work.
- e. Your responsibility is not to produce growth; it is to stay connected and planted.
- f. Application: stay planted in the house of God, stay in the Word, stay in prayer.
- g. Consistency creates growth.
- h. God is not just the giver of life. He is the grower of life.

- **Because Jesus rose from the dead, you now have new life, and new life always grows.**
- Easter is not just about an empty tomb. It is about a full life.
- You were dead. Now you are alive.
- And if you are alive in Christ. Growth is your next step.
- This is not the end. This is the beginning.
- Today is not just Easter... Today is Week 1 of GROW.