

It's time for a Resurrection!

In Philippians 3:10, Paul writes, *"I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death". NIV*

When Paul says, he wants to know the **power of Christ's resurrection**, he's not talking about rising from the dead when Jesus comes again, though that will happen. He's talking about experiencing Jesus's **resurrection** power in **this** life to overcome every challenge life brings. Paul desired an extraordinary experience of the living Christ operating in and through his own life.

Do we? Do we want that for our own lives? ...an extraordinary experience of the living Christ operating in our daily lives. Would it make a difference in what we are facing today?

When you go to a restaurant (and you will again, one day) someone will give you a written description of what they have to offer. You can read the menu for yourself. Sometimes you get even hungrier just looking at the pictures of the menu; it all looks so good. But you won't be satisfied with just reading the menu because you don't go to a restaurant to read.

Then the waiter comes to your table, and he will walk you through the menu and explain it for you...answer any questions you may have or even give you a testimony of his favorite choice. But you will not be satisfied by his words either, because no one goes to a restaurant to hear somebody else preach about it.

You go to a restaurant to **taste and experience** what it has in store for you. You will not be satisfied with just the menu or the waiter's explanation of the menu before leaving the table. Hunger simply will not be satisfied until you have chewed the meal, fully tasted the goodness and enjoyed the benefits. Likewise, we will not be satisfied with just reading the Bible now and then or having a pastor or teacher explain parts of the Bible to us. Reading about Him is good. Hearing about Him is good, but God longs for us to taste what he offers, know Him all that He can do for us, moving our experience from the written Word to the Living Word. He wants us to experience the familiar words of John 11:25, when Jesus says, **"I am the resurrection and the life"**. Jesus said that right before raising Lazarus from the grave, and He wants you to know that kind of power through faith in believing in Him.

Would you want to know that resurrection power today that calls forth whatever is dying in **your** life?

Your health, come forth! Your finances, come forth! Your job, your family, your relationships...your future, COME FORTH! Jesus can call anything out of darkness into the light. And when he does, you won't need somebody else to tell you how good God is...you will have experienced Him for yourself.

God longs to be more than theology on a shelf, more than the menu in a restaurant. He wants to be real to you right now, like a fully enjoyed meal giving nourishment and new life with every bite.

It is our prayer today that we all experience Christ's resurrection power in a personal way... brought to bear on our individual situations during these challenging times of uncertainty...and know with full assurance that God will respond... immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

The Prayer Team- Hope Lutheran Church