

↪ Transformation, what does it take to truly transform a person? I'm amazed at the people in Jesus' day who heard and saw all the things He said and did but remained unmoved, unchanged, untransformed. There was only one thing that got through to people, even His disciples. Jesus could have lived a thousand lives and performed 10K more miracles and I think the results would have been the same. Even with His clear teachings a powerful miracles people remained the same, His disciple denied or abandoned Him in the end. Just one thing brought it all home for them, and it wasn't the miracles or teachings or even His death; it was His resurrection!

1. We come to the final major heading the book of 1st Corinthians, the Resurrection.

- ✓ The Corinthian church had a multitude of problems, but the biggest threat to their fellowship was rank heresy, they were beginning to believe the false doctrine that there was no such thing as a resurrection for God's people. This was partly because they were mainly Greeks, and Greeks had very disparaging view off the human body. In Greek thinking and philosophy, the human body was a prison from which the spirit would finally be released upon death. Contrary to Greek thought, the Bible predicts in both Old and New Testaments that the entire human race, past, present and future, is to be resurrected in the end, at or before the final judgment. Contrary to Greek thought, the words used in the Greek New Testament for resurrection are "anastasis nekron" which means "standing up of a corpse" this was very clearly the physical resurrection of the body.

2. This chapter is primarily a treatise on believer's resurrections, but Paul establishes Jesus' resurrection first.

- ✓ Christianity is different from all other religions in that it does not just rest on a set of ideas, rules and doctrines; it rests on verifiable, historical facts, 1st Corinthians 15:3-4. Christianity rests all of its tenets on the Death, burial and resurrection of God's Son who is our Savior. Christianity begins where the world's religions end, every Sunday we revisit in our minds an empty tomb and pray to a risen Savior!

3. The resurrection proves so many things.

- It proves He was and is the Son of God, Romans 1:4.
- It proves His work for our salvation is a finished work, Romans 4:24-25.
- It proves we have a high priest standing on the right hand of the Father in Heaven, Romans 8:34.
- It proves that we can live holy lives, Romans 6:4.
- It proves that He is Lord, Romans 14:9.
- It proves that He will one day come to judge the world, Acts 17:32.
- It proves that there is a coming resurrection for all who place their faith in Him, John 5:24-25.

The Corinthian church had no idea that Jesus' resurrection and their own resurrection were so inseparably linked. They believed in Jesus' resurrection; they were living proof that He was alive and saving sinners. Fearful followers were transformed into bold witnesses. Skeptical James, the brother of Jesus, was transformed into the leader of the first church, 1st Corinthians 15:7. Paul the persecutor was transformed into one the most persecuted. The fact that these Corinthians were even able to hear or read Paul's letter was a sign of a huge transformation, 1st Corinthians 6:9-10. It wasn't just new teaching that transformed them or a new doctrine or idea, it was the power of the Risen Savior. The Bible plainly teaches that if we believe in our heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, we will be saved from sin, from Hell, from our old way of living, Romans 10:9-10.
