

**“The Power of Our Faith!”**

Today's scriptures introduce us to real-life changes that are given to believers through Jesus' resurrection. Let us think of three studies that will help you develop a spiritual attitude and fully understand the basics of the Resurrection faith.

Now, let us look through today's text and the whole Bible to see what the gift of faith gives us through Jesus' resurrection.

1. Jesus' resurrection made it possible for us to put on a transformed body through faith. (Luke 24:39–43)

**# Resurrection of a Woman:**

A middle-aged woman had a heart attack, and she had a near-death experience while she was having an operation. When she met God in front of the gate of heaven, she asked, "Father, is it time for me to die already?" God answered, "No, you have 40 more years left."

After that, she recovered dramatically. And she stayed in the hospital and had a whole slew of plastic surgeries. She figured that if she had a lot of days to live, she wanted to live the rest of her life as young as possible. However, on her way out of her final surgery, she crossed a pedestrian crossing and died in a traffic accident.

She asked God in front of the throne of heaven. She said to God, "Father, you told me that I have forty years left; why did you let me cross the street when you knew that a car was going to hit me?"

"I'm sorry," God answered. "You are so different from when I designed you that I didn't recognize you!" Of course, I am just kidding, because God knows who we are despite how much we change.

But in what way and how will we change in the resurrection? This is a topic that believers are curious about but are not quite clear on. To be honest, no one knows. We can only learn, infer, and apply what the Bible says.

The resurrected Jesus appeared to the disciples in the scripture today from the gospel of Luke. He communicated with his disciples through human language. He still seemed to have elements of his earthly body since He had flesh and bones. He must've been hungry because he also took a piece of broiled fish.

Looking at the features, first, we are resurrected as spirits. The body does not receive any time or space constraints at all. In Paul's version of the resurrected body, he says the body of the flesh, which humans have on this earth, is weak, reprobate, corrupt, and dies. On the other hand, the resurrected spiritual body is strong, glorious, and incorruptible (1 Corinthians 15:42–44).

Moreover, we will be resurrected in the form most resembling Jesus. If we were resurrected at the age we died, the kingdom of heaven would mostly be a senior center where only old people lived. On the contrary, if you are resurrected, you will be resurrected as you were in your prime.

However, one thing is certain: in heaven, you will be in the perfect physical condition that you could have had while living on earth and in the appearance of faith when the soul was innocent.

What does it mean that Jesus ate food, had bones, nail marks, and a spear wound when He resurrected? However, the body was already beyond decay. The reason Jesus still had those markings was for educational purposes—to strengthen the faith of the disciples. A rotting body is not fit to be the body of the eternal kingdom of heaven.

We live on earth with physical bodies, but we are already living in the faith of the resurrection. Then, can we live with the attributes of a spiritual body while we live on this earth and with a natural body? Is it impossible to live in joy, thanksgiving, and love beyond pain, sorrow, and hatred? I believe this is possible when we live in faith. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is able to overcome these adverse conditions for us.

Let's hear what Jesus promises us for our faith. "You have the strength to face all conditions with the power that I give you" (Phil 4:13). "Everything is possible for the person who has faith" (Mk 9:23).

II. Jesus' resurrection made it possible for us to understand the Bible through faith (24:45–47).

# Do any of you suffer from insomnia? There is a special medicine in reading the Bible. However, there are two different reasons for reading the Bible and sleeping well. One is when you sleep because you do not understand the Bible. It would be like falling asleep while reading a boring book.

The other is that your soul is touched by the Bible, and the body is put to sleep by the spirit. I saw some of us looking drowsy every Sunday as our congregation read the scriptures. I will leave it to your spiritual imagination to figure out why.

# Now I will explain how you can understand the Bible.

First, ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart. The scripture says, "Jesus opened the minds of His disciples to understand the Bible." Jesus wants to help not only the disciples but also all of us understand the Bible well.

Can you still not understand the Bible, even though you asked for help? If so, continue reading. And understand only what you can understand.

It is clear that the Holy Spirit has not yet opened your heart or that the Holy Spirit has allowed you partial understanding. But I believe the Holy Spirit will open your heart soon without delay, so long as you earnestly read it.

And then, continue to read and study the Bible. Jesus quoted the Old Testament several times to remind His disciples. So, we need to refer to and study the words God wrote through the authors. The Bible passage quoted by Jesus in today's Luke text is related to Hosea 6:2, Isaiah 54:13, and Jeremiah 31:34 from the Old Testament.

Let's hear the psalmist's confession. "I have become wiser than my teachers because I always think of the instructions of the Lord. How sweet is the taste of your instructions—sweeter even than honey!" (119: 99, 103).

The Holy Spirit gives some evangelists the superpower of preaching compulsively. However, many ordinary preachers gain the ability to preach through learning, research, and training in the word of God. I bless all our saints to experience "sweetness more than honey" through the Bible.

III. Jesus' resurrection made it possible for us to experience God's miracles through faith (Acts 3:16).

Let's listen to Peter's cry in the book of Acts, today's text. "Have faith. It was the power of his name that gave strength to this lame man. What you see and know was done by faith in his name; it was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see" (3:16).

This was done for the crowd after Peter had made a miracle with John to allow the lame beggar to walk. The crowd concentrates their attention on Peter and John, who performed miracles. But Peter emphasizes that all of these miracles were made through the power of the resurrection of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, who was slain for our sins but rose again from the dead.

Through the disciples' proclamation of faith, "the crippled man who had not been able to walk from birth" immediately stood up and walked and praised God. It was only through the power of faith through Christ that he became the new life of total change. Do we seek miracles of faith today? In particular, I want you to keep a phrase in your heart saying, "This was done by faith in his name."

We live in the most advanced civilized country in the world throughout human history. The needs of our lives are solved by medicine, technology, experience, knowledge, and social security. These are truly amazing things. But if they do not give you the opportunity to experience God's miracles because of the false sense of security it brings, it is a spiritual loss.

Perhaps the direct reason that Peter and John were able to perform the miracle to heal the lame beggar was because they had no money or reliance on earthly things. Likewise, even though the things we seek are not resolved quickly, there is a good reason.

Are weakness, pain, and scarcity making you sigh in frustration? Believe that the weakness that cannot be sustained without dependence on the Almighty Jesus Christ is a condition of gratitude. I pray that Paul's confession will be our confession. He says, "I suffer insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10).

How can I come out strong in my weakness? Strength comes from faith in the power of Jesus Christ. Ask of him for even the smallest needs of everyday life with faith in the Lord. We experience miracles of faith beyond what we ask for, thereby enjoying the joy of life and the faith that accompanies experiencing the Lord and glorifying Him.

If our souls are filled with faith, we will have peace of mind even before our situations improve. Furthermore, even in the valley of death, there is no fear of harm. The Lord is able to withstand and endure through all because He is with me. Amen.

***Reflections and Applications for Today's Sermon:***

1) What made you most curious about the "transformed body" that Jesus had after his resurrection? What is the first thing you want to do with the same transformed body you will have after the resurrection? The reason is that?

2) How do you expect Luke 24:45, "Then Jesus opened his disciples' minds to understand the Scriptures," to help or challenge you in your continued Bible reading and meditation?

3) In Acts 3:16, Peter exclaimed, "It was faith in Jesus that has made him well, as you can all see." What new guidelines does his confession offer for your prayers for healing yourself or others?