

NOTES

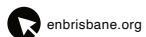


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PRAYER

Father, thank You that You are the God who raises the dead and brings life where there once was none. As we gather, remind us of the gospel we've received — that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. Teach us to trust You — not just with our words, but with our rest, our submission, and our values. In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

What's one thing you've found hard to trust God with lately — and why?

(Leaders: Encourage honesty here — this question sets up the theme of trusting the resurrection power of Jesus in our everyday life.)

WORD

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed. Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.”

- 1 Corinthians 15:1–14 (ESV)

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

- Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV)

Commentary & Insights:

he church in Corinth was a mess — divided, distracted, and doubting. Yet Paul reminds them of the one thing that holds it all together: the resurrection of Jesus. He brings them back to what he calls “of first importance” — the gospel: Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. But he doesn’t just want them to believe the facts of the gospel — he calls them to trust the gospel with their lives. Because if Jesus truly rose from the dead, then He’s worthy of our full rest, full submission, and full value.

Paul, who once persecuted the church, now works harder than any of them — not to earn God’s grace, but because he’s trusting in it.

To trust the resurrection means to believe that:

- God is powerful enough to raise what looks dead.
- His grace is sufficient to transform what looks broken.
- His promises are strong enough to rest in, even when life feels uncertain.

Trusting the gospel means more than saying “I believe.”

It’s living as though Jesus is alive and active right now — in our work, our relationships, our worship, and our waiting.

Three Movements of Trust

1 Will you trust Him to REST in Him?

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest...” — **Matthew 11:28**

Many of us preach a good gospel but don’t always trust it.

We keep striving, worrying, and working to earn what Jesus already gave.

Sabbath isn’t about obligation — it’s an act of trust.

Tithing and offering isn’t about religious duty — it’s trusting that He provides.

Rest is not laziness; it’s faith in action.

Reflection:

Do you trust Him enough to stop striving and rest?

What would “resting in Him” look like in your weekly rhythm?

2. Will you trust Him enough to SUBMIT to Him?

“Not my will, but Yours be done.” — **Luke 22:42**

In Corinth, culture was king — and people submitted to popularity, position, or pressure instead of Christ.

Today, culture still preaches self-rule: “follow your truth.”

But Jesus calls us to follow Him.

Submission isn’t weakness — it’s surrender to the One who conquered death.

When we submit to God, we resist the false masters of society — success, status, and self.

Reflection:

Where are you tempted to submit more to culture than to Christ?

What would it look like to surrender that area to Him this week?

3 Will you trust Him enough to VALUE Him above all else?

“The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls...” — **Matthew 13:45–46**

Paul once valued reputation, religion, and recognition.

But after encountering the risen Christ, he said, “I count everything as loss compared to knowing Him.” (Philippians 3:8)

To value Jesus above all else means letting go of the good things that keep us from the best thing.

Addiction, approval, ambition — these things can’t give resurrection life.

But when we sell out for the “pearl of great price,” we discover joy that never fades.

Reflection:

What’s something that once had your full attention — that Jesus is now asking you to lay down?

How could valuing Him more bring freedom?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul says, “By the grace of God I am what I am.” What does trusting God’s grace look like for you personally right now?
2. If the resurrection really happened, how should it change the way you handle fear, rest, or control?
3. Where do you find it hardest to “rest in” God — in your schedule, finances, or relationships?
4. How can we as a community model trust — in the way we Sabbath, give, serve, or forgive?
5. What might it mean for you to trust the Gospel more than you trust your feelings, culture, or circumstances?

Closing Challenge

Paul ends by reminding the church:

“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain.”

But because He has been raised, our trust is not in vain.

You can rest, submit, and value Him — not out of obligation, but out of resurrection trust.

This week, choose one area of your life where you will actively trust the gospel.

Rest where you once worried.

Submit where you once resisted.

Value Him where you once clung to lesser things.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You that the resurrection is not just a story — it’s our reality.

Teach us to trust You deeply — to rest in Your finished work, to submit to Your will, and to value You above everything else.

May our lives be a living testimony that You are alive and worthy of all our trust.

In Your powerful name, Amen.