

Six ways the bodily resurrection of Jesus changes our lives now

4. The resurrection of Christ means we are free to fight the power of sin

Our battle against sin within us will last until the day we die. But there is very good news for us: not only are we free from sin's penalty through Christ, but we are also, through his resurrection free to fight sin's power! Here is how Paul puts it in Romans 6v3-5:

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We see here Paul describing the wonderful blessing of our union with Christ (note 'into' and 'in') such that what has happened to Christ is what has happened to us. He shows us three tenses of our salvation story:

PAST – through Christ's death we have been set free from the PENALTY of sin (v3 - Baptism into Christ is here same as conversion, becoming a Christian)

PRESENT – through Christ's resurrection we are now free to fight the POWER of sin (v4 – we live a new life, free from sin's ruling power)

FUTURE – through Christ's resurrection and ascension into heaven we know that when we join him we will be free from the PRESENCE of sin (v5 – looking forward to our bodily resurrection)

So, when we consider our lives *now* we see that we will continue to sin, but what has changed is that we now have God's power, the power by which he raised Jesus from the dead, to fight sin's desires within us. Sin is no longer our master – Christ is our master.

So, today, praise God for the glorious good news that Christ's death has paid for the penalty for your sin, and then ask God for his resurrection power to fight sin within. Speak to God about specific areas of sin that you know of. Perhaps areas of life that you think are 'too hard' to change because you have been living like that for so many years. Or because you think 'well that's just who I am'. Ask God specifically to show you how sin has got its tendrils around you, strangling your desire to change. And pray for his resurrection power to help you break sin's cords and live differently, for the glory of God.

