

The Audacity of Christianity

SAY WHAAAT!



Christianity Hinges on 1 Thing



Christianity Hinges on 1 Thing, Particularly an Empty Tomb



Audacious Summary

So you are saying some guy claimed to be God, who lived about 2000 years ago, was supposedly killed, and then everyone claims that He was raised from the dead. And if you believe that, it pays for your sins, allows you access to God, unlocks eternal life for you, and gives you a purpose in this life.

Let's take a closer look

I Corinthians 15 (NIV)

12 But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

I Corinthians 15 (NIV)

20 But *Christ has indeed been raised from the dead*, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Evidences for the Empty Tomb (i.e. the Resurrection)

- 6 independent recorded testimonies
- 3 detailed eyewitness accounts
- 10 recorded appearances
 - Some to over 500 people
- Plus 4 more recorded appearances post-ascension

More Evidences

- Behavior of His followers
- Persistence despite persecution
 - Not die for a lie; vs. rat out for a snack
- The Grave clothes (John 20:3-9)
- Extra biblical histories

More Evidences

- What year is it?
- What day is it?
- Where are you right now?
 - The continuity of the church
- Further reading:
 - Know Why You Believe- Little
 - Evidence that Demands a Verdict- McDowell
 - The Case for Christ- Strobel

What's up with the Cross?



The Gospel message in short

- There is a God (presupposition; Ps 14:1)
- Every person does bad things (duh, aka sin; Rom 3:23)
- There needs to be payment for wrongs, things need to be made right; This payment is severe (inherent sense of justice; Rom 6:23)
- Somebody has to pay; somebody did pay; that somebody was Jesus (Rom 10:9-10, I John 2:2)
- His Resurrection broke the power of sin and death (empty tomb; I Cor 15:55-57)
- This restored our friendship with God (Rom 5:10-11)



Mere Christianity

- Church history, various creeds, numerous leaders and reformers and carriers of the faith, and our mission statement:

All point to the centrality of the Resurrection
- When the church, and individuals has gotten away from this central tenet is when there are struggles
- Further reading:
 - Mere Christianity- C.S. Lewis

Audacious Summary

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Answer: umm, yep. Pretty much.

Key Point #1

Our aim is to help you know that the foundation of your faith is solidly based

Daily Ramifications of the Resurrection

- Our identity, very nature
- Our position, standing
- Our role, purpose
- Our mindset, thinking
- Our provision, resourcing, power

Ephesians 1 (NASB)

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places

Philippians 3:7-14 (NASB)

10a that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection

Romans 8 (ESV)

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Holy Spirit Power

Some of the greatest evidences for the veracity of the resurrection is seeing the movement of the Holy Spirit in the daily lives of ordinary Christians



Audacious Summary

So basically you are saying that if I believe in Jesus' resurrection-- in addition to forgiveness of my sins, reconciliation with God, adoption as God's Child, eternal life, and so on-- that the same Power that supposedly raised this guy from the dead is available to me such that I have the power of the Holy Spirit living in me to do amazing things in my daily life?

Let's take a look

Implications & Applications for Daily Life

I have power of the Holy Spirit living in me to:

- Talk to God as my friend (John 15:14-15, Rom 5:10-10)
- Know the mind of Christ (I Cor 2:16)
- Have supernatural, divine insight, guidance and perspective (John 16:13)
- Trust, wait and obey for the right timing and the right situation (Pr 3:5-6)
- Have insights into God's written word (I Cor 1, Heb 4:12)
- Have supernatural patience (Eph 4:2, James 1:2-8)

Implications & Applications for Daily Life

I have power of the Holy Spirit living in me to:

- Not worry (1 Pet 5:7, Phil 4:4)
- Be free from Fear (1 Tim 1:7)
- Exhibit Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
- Have a new nature (2 Cor 5:17, Gal 2:20)

Implications & Applications for Daily Life

I have power of the Holy Spirit living in me to:

- Be light in darkness (Matt 6:14-16, Phil 2:15)
- Be free from Offense (I Pet 4:8, Pr 10:12)
- Forgive and be reconciled to others (2 Cor 5:18-19)
- Love others, especially the unlovable (John 13:35, I John 4:7, James 2:8)
- Point others to Jesus' resurrection and reintroduce people estranged from God back to Him (Acts 1:8)
- Serve as an ambassador for God Almighty Himself (2 Cor 5:20)

Implications & Applications for Daily Life

I have power of the Holy Spirit living in me to:

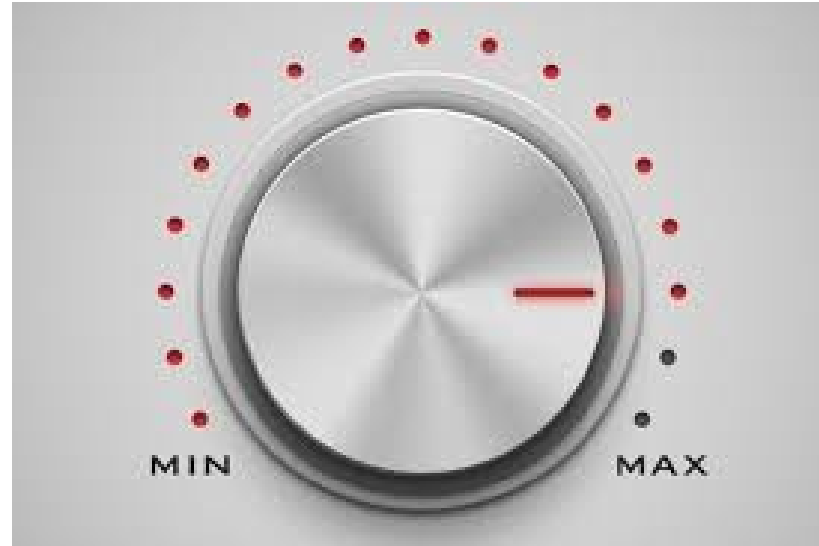
- Overcome sin and temptation (John 16:33, I John 2:13, 5:4)
- Supernaturally see ways out of temptation (I Cor 10:13)
- Break the bonds that entrap (John 8:36, Luke 4:18, Gal 5:1)
 - Not only addictions and detriments, but also the trappings of riches, prestige and success
- Endure suffering and difficulties (Rom 5:3-5, Phil 3:10)

Implications & Applications for Daily Life

I have power of the Holy Spirit living in me to:

- Exercise His Gifts (Rom 12, I Cor 12, Eph 4)
- Ask for and see healing, getting others in their right, and other supernatural, restorative acts (I Pet 2:24, I Cor 12:10, John 14:14)
- Experience miracles and amazing “coincidences” (Eph 3:20)
- Make an impact in my circle of influence (Phil 2:13)
- Expect to see God move in my and the life of my contemporaries (Phil 2:13)

So how do we appropriate His resurrection power daily?



With great power comes great responsibility

- Luke 12:48b-From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.



Are we settling for too little?

- Jer 29:11-13
- John 10:10
- Eph 3:20-21
- Rom 8:28, 31, 32
- 2 Pet 1:3



Audacious Summary

- So you are saying that the same Power that supposedly raised this guy from the dead is available to me today, as through this Holy Spirit, to do amazing things as long as I believe and agree with God and allow Him to work in my life?

Answer: umm, yep. Pretty much.

Key Point #2

Our aim is to ensure you are experiencing the fullness of the Power of His Resurrection every day

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Our aim is to help you know that the foundation of your faith is solidly based

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