

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (ESV) ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

1 Corinthians 15:14-20 (ESV) ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Acts 2:29-32 (ESV) ²⁹ “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. ³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

So how *can* we know if Jesus really rose from the dead?

Consider for a moment just some of the most compelling evidence for Jesus’ resurrection:

- Old Testament prophets predicted it.
- Jesus predicted it openly and numerously.
- After Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared 12 different times to over 500 eyewitnesses in multiple locations and times over a 40-day period.
- The transformation of the disciples was radical. They went from being fearful cowards to confident followers who weren’t afraid to die for their faith. People don’t knowingly die for a lie.
- The explosion of the church started in Jerusalem, the same place where we could document that the resurrection happened. For 25 years, right where Jesus did His teaching, people could ask questions and get answers from hundreds of eyewitnesses.

3 implications for examining the evidence of the resurrection:

1. It validates Jesus’ claim that He is ***“the way the truth and the life.” (John 14:6)***
2. It gives us a hope for the future. Jesus said, ***“Because I live, you will live also.” (John 14:9)***
3. It offers spiritual life *right now*. ***“By the acceptance of this good news you are saved.” (1 Cor. 15:2) “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16-19)***

Psalm 34:8 (ESV) Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!