



Easter is a celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, a celebration of His power over death, and a celebration of what His resurrection means for those of us who believe and follow Him. But what about the day after Easter...and the next day? How does the truth of the resurrection impact the life of the believer in the days following?

*Read: Philippians 3:7-14*

Paul makes a lot of statements that seem upside down, even counter-intuitive, that would sound incredibly strange to those outside of a relationship with Jesus.

How does the resurrection turn the tables so drastically in a person's life?

Why does it make this kind of a difference?

How do the resurrection and suffering go together? Why must they go together?

Where are you in your faith journey, relative to Paul...are you able to say these same things?

*Read: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18*

What is the result of the power we as believers have access to, via our relationship with God?

How is our response to external pressures and events different because of this power?

How do we carry the death of Jesus in our own body?

How is Jesus' life revealed in our own body?

How does v16-18 reframe the suffering that accompanies the power of the resurrection?

How do these verses encourage you in the struggles you are currently going through?

***Take it deeper:***

Do you truly know Christ himself, or do you only know of Him, or about Him?

What do you need to shift, mentally, physically, emotionally, or spiritually, so that you, too, can know Him the way Paul did?

What practical steps can you take daily to make this shift in knowing Jesus more?

If you desire to know Jesus more intimately, take the step to join a discipleship group, or find a Godly mentor, that can help you grow in that way. Reach out to other believers in your life or contact the church to help you make that connection.

***Prayer:***

***Father, thank you for making the same power that raised Jesus from the dead available to me in my relationship with you. Grow in me a passion for knowing you deeply, and help me to see my struggles as an opportunity for growth, an opportunity for you to make me more like Jesus. Amen.***