

GOD IS: RISEN LIFE

We live in an era of "fake news." But the Bible proclaims "Good News." News you can rely on, because God Himself is the source. Nearly 2,000 years after the earthly life of Jesus Christ, we are still declaring the life-transforming news about Him, because of His life and death and resurrection. Jesus is risen! Matthew 28 says "*Do not be afraid. He is not here. He is risen, just as He said.*" Jesus is alive today! Because He is God, the eternal second person of the Trinity, the One and Only God in three persons.

1- Jesus is the AUTHOR of life. John 1 says "*In the beginning was the Word (a title for Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him.*" The One God exists in three persons who always work together in total unity. God is the architect of creation, redemption, and resurrection, all arranged by the Father, accomplished by the Son, and applied by the Holy Spirit. Peter declares in Acts 2, "*This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed, but God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by death.*" In Acts 3 he says, "*You denied the Holy and Righteous One, and you killed the author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.*" These words are terms of divinity, proclaiming Jesus as God. As Paul says in Romans 1, "*Christ Jesus was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness, by His resurrection from the dead.*"

2- Jesus is the LORD of life. John 10 says "*I have authority to lay down My life and to take it up again, of My own accord.*" Colossians 1 presents Jesus as firstborn of all creation and firstborn from the dead. This term refers to His rank. Jesus is highest, Lord and ruler, worthy of worship. He is both Creator and Redeemer, reconciling His creatures to the holy God by the sacrifice of Himself on the cross. In creation, He gives physical life. In the cross and resurrection, He gives spiritual life. The book and movie "Case For Christ" clearly explain all the evidence about the Lord Jesus that leads to saving faith. Easter is the week that changed the world, but according to Islam, it's the week that never was. Islam calls Jesus a prophet, but denies the Bible's historical facts about His life and death and resurrection, refusing to believe.

3- Jesus is the GIVER of life. John 10 continues, "*My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish.*" In John 6 He says "*the Spirit gives life*" and Peter responds, "*we have believed and have come to know, You are the Holy One of God.*" In John 3 Jesus says "*you must be born again from above by the Spirit.*" John 1 says "*to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but born of God.*" That's regeneration by the Holy Spirit.

4- Do you have HIS life? This is the great question of the day. The facts about Jesus are incontrovertible history. But only your story can answer the question whether you have the life that Jesus gives. Romans 10:9 says "*if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" This is not a ritual or a recipe, it's the response of faith to Jesus Himself, His life and death and resurrection. Because Jesus did what you can not do. He paid for sins with His perfect life, then rose from the dead with His perfect resurrection. In response, with all your heart, mind, will, you put all your trust in Jesus. 1 John 5:11 says "*This is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*" It's not about a procedure, it's about a person. Jesus saves. And John says "*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know you have eternal life.*" That's the witness of the regenerating Holy Spirit, who assures believers of life in Christ.

Like Thomas, blessed are you to believe without seeing the risen Lord in person. Because like John, one day you will see as John did in Revelation 1: "*His eyes like flame of fire and face like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw Him I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore.*" It's an echo of the words from the empty tomb. He is risen! Do you believe this? With all your heart and mind and will? All that you are believing in all that Jesus is? Then live out His new life through you, every day!