

**4 April 2021**  
**JESUS IS RAISED**  
**Easter Sunday**

Today we get to celebrate the impossible; Jesus is raised from the dead, and that changes everything. Jesus is alive. Alive today. Never to die. Jesus is alive!

Jesus is alive and his promise to you is that in him you too have the hope of resurrection. He will also do the impossible for you. Jesus promise is resurrection. Resurrection to a life beyond our wildest dreams; where we live with God in an intimate relationship of love and affection in a conversational atmosphere.

Does that sound good to you? Is sound fantastic to me; I'm in!

I love the imagery St Paul uses to describe this resurrection; the image of a seed. It blows my mind when I reflect on that image, for when I put a tomato seed in the ground there is the full potential to grow a tomato bush which will produce lovely, delicious tomatoes. And Paul says my physical body is just like that seed.

Do you notice the tomato doesn't become something it isn't, rather once it is planted the seed is set free to reach its full potential.

Just think, in Jesus, one day you will reach your full potential, beyond your wildest dreams.

If I gave you the seed of a river red gum it would look like a speck of dirt, but when it is set free to reach its full potential, what a huge, beautiful tree it grows into.

Jesus has come so that you, one day, might be set free to reach the full potential that our Heavenly Father has placed in you.

Sin twists and distorts you, robbing you of the life our Heavenly Father would have you live and enjoy with him. Sin leaves us robbed of life; life in all his fullness.

Maybe that's what hell will be; knowing what you could have been, but forever regretting missing out as you watch others grow and flourish becoming all that Jesus has made possible.

And what Jesus has made possible is impossible for me.

It is impossible for me to raise myself from death. I've stood at many graves and in my own strength I haven't raised anyone. I've felt the loss of those around me; their pain at losing the one they love.

And at each and every one of those grave sides the desire was to have that person alive and healthy. I think that is the only response to death worth talking about; that person alive.

What has Jesus promised to do; raise all those who believe in him. Jesus promises to do what is impossible for you. Jesus promises to raise you to new life; life lived in his loving presence.

One of my favourite images of this new life was written by the prophet Isaiah. He wrote; "On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine – the best of meats and the finest of wines. (this sounds good to me) On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples... he will swallow up death for ever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces;... The LORD has spoken." (Isa. 25:6-9) I'm in!

I must admit that I hear a lot of wishful thinking and empty sentiment when people talk about death. I've heard many a time that the person is still with you in spirit; they're looking down on you. No they're not, they're dead and no wishful thinking or empty sentiment changes that. They are dead and we are powerless to change that.

If death is the last word on your life, that would be truly horrific. Better to hide in the forest of nice words and fluffy sentiment than face the horror of death, robbing you blind of those you love with no hope.

Today I thank God, my brother Jesus, that he doesn't leave me in that forest of lies, but he promises that in him my best is yet to come. Death will not have the last word on my life. Jesus will come forth and do the impossible. Jesus will come and command life, and I will rise to new life. I will rise to feast with Jesus 'on his holy mountain' as Isaiah put it; celebrating life in his love and affection. Growing into all our heavenly Father has dreamed possible, discovering the full potential of who he has made me to be.

But even more wonderful I'll be discovering more and more of the fullness of who my heavenly Father is. I'll be discovering his personality, tasting his love first hand, seeing the smile on his face, experiencing the joy of life with my heavenly Dad, my brother Jesus, and my mate the Spirit, hopefully along with all of you. It'll be a blast. I'm in!

Today we have a choice to make. We can go it alone, doing our own thing. Or, we can throw our lot in with Jesus, following him, taking him at his word, living life with him.

If you choose to go it alone, the outcome will be death. And that death will come well before your last breath; you'll forget, you'll slow down, if you get old enough you'll dribble and wet yourself.

But God doesn't want to force anyone to trust him. You can choose to go it alone; but the outcome is certain, you will die, like it or not. You'll lose all you love and treasure. You'll be left with an empty heart, lost hopes and dreams, wanting what you don't have the power to get. It'll be hellish.

Thank God, Jesus is alive. Thank God Jesus rose to new life from the grave. Thank God Jesus rose with the power to do the

impossible; raise you to life, a wonderful rich and satisfying life with your heavenly Dad.

If you jump on board with Jesus choice of you, the outcome will be life; life lived in your heavenly Father's love and affection, discovering more and more of the joy of life lived in him.

Jesus can and will do the impossible.

In fact when we trust in him he begins giving us a taste of Father's love and affection this side of the grave. My physical body may decay, but my life with Jesus grows in being known by Jesus and in knowing more and more the love and affection Jesus has for me, for us. I wonderfully get a taste of the life to come.

I love the taste of forgiveness, of undeserved grace, of unrestrained hope, of love which is prepared to give its all that I benefit at Jesus expense, so that I can begin living out that love now. I want to taste more and more of this wonderful life Jesus creates as he speaks life into us.

So you can do it your own way. Plenty of people have told me God doesn't know what he's talking about and have gone off and done it their own way. I can tell their future 100%, they'll die, alone, empty, no hope. They simply don't have the power to change the inevitable, they can't do the impossible.

While I love those people, I'm not going to follow their example.

I'm throwing my lot in with the one who can and has done the impossible; Jesus. Jesus has risen. Jesus will raise me to new life; life lived in our heavenly Father's love and affection in a conversational atmosphere where we get to live out his supernatural love quite naturally. Jesus does have the power to do the impossible, and he will.

I'm in! What about you?

Today Jesus invites you to throw your lot in with him. If that's you then I invite you to join me as we pray to Jesus. Jesus we trust in you. We trust that you will do the impossible and raise us to new life in you. We thank, praise and adore you for this. Today fill us with the Spirit that we might follow you in all we say and do, living life your way. Living knowing you will return and that death doesn't have the last word, you do. Jesus open our hearts and minds to you, filling them with the Spirit that we live in that intimate relationship of love and affection that you have created. Jesus we trust you, we want to know you, and live the life you promise.