



The Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The one thing that changes everything . . . if we believe . . . truly believe.

By "truly believe" I mean something quite foreign to our modern ears. The deep essence of the word "believe" means "to place one's heart, to trust." It is not mere intellectual assent to a set of ideas. The evidence of "true belief" in

scripture often meant "to stake one's life on" what they truly believed no matter the cost -- even life itself.

Christianity is centered on and grounded in the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To say "I believe in Jesus" is to say "I believe Jesus is the Son of God who was crucified, died, buried, and rose from the dead." And perhaps most remarkable of all, the resurrection of Jesus points to something even more outrageous than his own resurrection. It points to ours.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." (John 11:25-26, NLT)

Let that sink in.

Believing in the resurrection of Jesus, on Jesus' terms, means we believe that we, too, will never die. We will live in eternity with him. And to believe that -- to truly believe that -- means to stake our lives on it. Imagine what your life and mine would look like if we lived now believing we were going to live forever. Would it change anything? I believe it would change everything. It would transform our fear, and it is our fear that too often cripples us. It is our fear that holds us back. Fear of death. Fear of sickness. Fear of failure. Fear of what others think of us. And if you are like me, there are too often a few more.

Knowing that we will live forever sets us free to really live now. No fear. Just resurrection life now. It makes me want to declare with the Apostle Paul this Easter:

"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!" (Philippians 3:11-12, NLT)

He is risen!

Jim Gash
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