

# 1 Corinthians 15 – The Resurrection That Changes Everything

*A Christ-Centered Bible Study (ESV)*

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## Introduction

1 Corinthians 15 is one of the most powerful chapters in all of Scripture because it centers on the foundation of our faith—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Without the resurrection, Christianity would be empty, powerless, and without hope. But because Christ has been raised from the dead, everything changes. Our faith is alive, our sins are forgiven, and our future is secure.

The Apostle Paul writes to remind believers of the gospel they received and to correct false teachings that denied the resurrection. He lays out clearly that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. This is not just theology—it is the very heart of our salvation and the anchor of our hope.

This chapter also lifts our eyes beyond this present life. It reminds us that death is not the end, but the beginning of eternal life for those who are in Christ. It calls us to stand firm, remain faithful, and live with purpose, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

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# Section 1: The Gospel Foundation (1 Corinthians 15:1–11, ESV)

## My Commentary

Paul reminds us that the gospel is not complicated—it is clear, historical, and powerful. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day. This is not a symbolic message; it is a factual event witnessed by many.

What stands out is that Paul includes himself as one “untimely born,” showing that no one is beyond the reach of God’s grace. If God can transform Paul, He can transform anyone.

Paul begins by reminding believers of the gospel—not something new, but something foundational. The gospel is not complicated: **Christ died, was buried, and rose again**. This is the core of our salvation.

Notice that Paul emphasizes:

- It is **received**
- It is where we **stand**
- It is how we are **saved**

The resurrection is not symbolic—it is historical, witnessed, and verified. Over 500 people saw Him alive. This was not a myth—it was reality.

Paul also gives a powerful personal testimony. A former persecutor becomes a preacher. Why? **Grace**. This reminds us that no one is beyond redemption.

## Discussion Questions (Answer sheet on the last page)

1. What is the gospel according to this passage?
2. Why is it important to “stand” in the gospel?
3. What does Paul’s testimony teach us about God’s grace?

## Encouragement

No matter where you’ve been or what you’ve done, God’s grace can reach you, restore you, and use you for His glory.

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## Section 2: The Importance of the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:12–19, ESV)

### My Commentary

Paul makes a bold and logical argument: if Christ is not raised, then preaching is useless, faith is futile, and we are still in our sins. Christianity rises or falls on the resurrection.

This is not blind faith—it is a faith grounded in truth. The resurrection is the dividing line between hope and despair.

Paul makes a bold statement: **If Christ is not risen, everything falls apart.**

- Faith becomes empty
- Preaching becomes useless
- Sin remains undefeated

But this passage is not meant to discourage—it is meant to highlight the **absolute necessity** of the resurrection.

Our faith is not built on ideas—it is built on a living Savior.

### Discussion Questions (Answer sheet on the last page)

1. What would have happened if Christ had not been raised?
2. Why does Paul say our faith would be in vain without the resurrection?
3. How does the resurrection give us hope today?

### Encouragement

Your faith is not in vain. Jesus is alive, and because He lives, your hope is secure.

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## Section 3: The Promise of Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20–34, ESV)

### My Commentary

Paul declares victory: “**But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead**” (v. 20, ESV).

Jesus is called the “firstfruits,” meaning His resurrection is the beginning of what is to come for all believers. Just as death came through Adam, life comes through Christ.

This reminds us that our story does not end in the grave.

Christ is called the **firstfruits**—meaning He is the beginning of what is to come. His resurrection guarantees ours.

Through Adam came death. Through Christ comes life.

This is the great exchange:

- Sin → death
- Christ → life

### Discussion Questions (Answer sheet on the last page)

1. What does “firstfruits” mean in this passage?
2. How did death enter the world?
3. What promise do believers have because of Christ?

### Encouragement

When you face loss or uncertainty, remember this: in Christ, life always wins.

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## **Section 4: The Resurrection Body (1 Corinthians 15:35–49, ESV)**

### **My Commentary**

Paul uses the analogy of a seed to explain the resurrection body. What is sown perishable is raised imperishable. What is weak is raised in power.

This teaches us that our future bodies will not be a restoration of the old—but a transformation into something glorious.

Paul explains that our current bodies are temporary and weak, but our future bodies will be glorious and imperishable. What is sown in weakness will be raised in power. This transformation shows the fullness of God’s redemption.

We are not meant to remain as we are—God has something far greater prepared.

Our earthly bodies are temporary—but our resurrected bodies will be:

- Incorruptible
- Glorious
- Powerful

We are not just saved spiritually—God will redeem our entire being.

### **Discussion Questions** (Answer sheet on the last page)

1. How does Paul describe our current body?
2. What will our resurrected body be like?
3. Why is this transformation important?

### **Encouragement**

Your struggles today are temporary. God has a glorified future waiting for you.

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## Section 5: Victory Over Death (1 Corinthians 15:50–58, ESV)

### My Commentary

This is the triumphant conclusion—death has been defeated. Through Jesus Christ, we have victory over sin and the grave. Paul declares, “O death, where is your victory?” This is not wishful thinking—it is a settled reality.

Because of this victory, we are called to remain steadfast and committed to the work of the Lord.

This is the climax—**victory!**

Death has been defeated. The grave has lost its power. Because of Christ:

- Sin no longer condemns
- Death no longer wins

Paul ends with a call to action: **Stand firm. Keep working. Don’t give up.**

### Discussion Questions (Answer sheet on the last page)

1. What is the sting of death?
2. Who gives us victory?
3. How should we live in response to this truth?

### Encouragement

You are not fighting for victory—you are living from victory in Christ.

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## How Can We Share This With Those Who Don’t Know

- Share your personal testimony—what Christ has done in your life.
  - Keep the message simple: Jesus died, was raised, and offers life.
  - Live in a way that reflects hope, peace, and confidence in Christ.
  - Speak with love, not judgment—people are drawn to truth wrapped in grace.
  - Remind others that Christianity is not just a belief—it is a relationship with a living Savior.
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## Final Thought

The resurrection is not just something we believe—it is everything we stand on. It is the difference between despair and hope, between death and life, between emptiness and purpose.

Because Christ has been raised, your story is not over. Because He lives, you can stand firm. Because He conquered the grave, you can walk in victory every single day.

So remain steadfast. Stay rooted in truth. Keep moving forward in faith.

**“Your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, ESV)**

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## From My Heart to Yours

My dear friend,

There are moments in life when things feel uncertain, when the weight of this world presses heavily upon us. In those moments, I want you to remember this truth: **Christ has been raised.** That one truth changes everything. It means your life has purpose, your future is secure, and your struggles are not the end of your story.

Because He lives, you can face tomorrow with confidence. You are not alone in your journey. God sees you, knows you, and loves you deeply. Even when you feel weak, His strength is made perfect in you. Even when life feels overwhelming, His promises remain steady and sure.

Hold onto this hope. Let it anchor your heart and guide your steps. No matter what comes, remember—you belong to a risen Savior, and in Him, you have victory.



Dr. Cecil W. Thorn

CWT Ministry

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# **Answer Sheet (For Discussion Questions)**

## **Section 1 Answers**

1. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised.
2. Because it is the foundation of our salvation and faith.
3. That God's grace can transform anyone.

## **Section 2 Answers**

1. Faith would be empty, and we would still be in sin.
2. Because everything depends on Christ being alive.
3. It assures us that we have real, living hope.

## **Section 3 Answers**

1. Christ is the first of many to be raised.
2. Through Adam's sin.
3. Eternal life through Jesus Christ.

## **Section 4 Answers**

1. Weak, perishable, and temporary.
2. Glorious, powerful, and imperishable.
3. It shows God's complete redemption.

## **Section 5 Answers**

1. Sin.
2. Jesus Christ.
3. Steadfast, faithful, and committed to God's work.

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Is a teacher and servant of Christ with a passion for guiding believers into deeper intimacy with God through Scripture, prayer, and Spirit-led living. His ministry is devoted to equipping the Church to walk in truth, freedom, and faithfulness to Christ’s call.