

The Resurrection Principle

“I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity.” —John 12:24-25 NLT

Understanding the resurrection principle will unlock one of the mysteries of how God gives us His New Life. Resurrection is how God works in the Christian’s life—we *take up our cross daily*. In other words, when we die to ourselves, we enable God to miraculously use us. As a believer, it is God’s intention to resurrect every aspect of your relationship with Him. We no longer live in our own strength even if our ambitions and desires are meant to please Him—we give everything to Him to resurrect. It is only when God raises something up by His resurrection power that He can use it.

God will resurrect what is set apart for Him.

In God’s Kingdom, the New Life He offers is always preceded by death. *When you take up your cross daily* through surrender, you allow His resurrection power to raise you to a New Life in Him. Denying, forgoing or ignoring His resurrection power is why so many people, who are otherwise known as Christians, live a compromised, unhappy and hypocritical life before others. It is *Christ’s Spirit living in you* that enables you to live your faith before others in a genuine way.

Not many people willingly yearn to give their life for a cause, yet that is exactly what God asks of us. When God calls us, and we say yes to Him, we are no longer our own; we belong to Him for His good pleasure. The Scriptures say that *we are bought with a price*. We are no longer subject to the whims and worldly pleasures that draw us away from the plans and purposes that He has destined for us.

Galatians 2:20 tells us that *we are crucified with Christ*. The essence of the Christian faith is that we must consider ourselves dead to our old way of living, but that’s not the whole of it. We also identify with His resurrection. We are raised to a New Life by the same power that raised Christ from the dead. This resurrection power is resident in us, giving us New Life and the power to walk in victory over sin and death. However, if you do not reckon yourself dead, then God’s provision for His power in your daily walk is not available to you. The Bible says you must reckon yourself as dead. *You cannot be raised unless you first die.*

You cannot have His resurrection power evident in your life unless you have died with Him.

God will give the genuine Christians desires and ideas to please Him, honor Him and bring Him glory. When God gives a desire, it is precious and valuable to us. Our natural tendency is to run with the vision that God has given us. Doing so is admirable in the natural realm, but in God’s kingdom everything is subject to the resurrection principle. For instance, God often gives dreams or visions for ministry; however, even these heaven-sent aspirations must die so God can resurrect them in His power, ensuring that He will get the glory.

Consider Gideon who by all counts wanted to please God. Even so, God required Gideon to reduce his army to a minuscule number of men for one reason. God wanted the results to leave no doubt about who won the victory. God tells us over and over that the battle is His. Like Gideon, He will bring us to the place where we will release our earthly grip on anything we have placed our trust, no matter how admirable and pure we think it is.

The take-away is that God wants to use me for His glory, but I must die to myself and allow Him to resurrect the dead things that putrefy my motive and outcome. Doing so opens the door for God to do more than I could ever think or ask. For instance, (a true story) God put on my heart to lead my neighbor to know Jesus. In contemplating how to do this, God spoke to my heart. “When you are willing to give everything, even your life, to see Robert saved, I will do the miraculous.”

“... When you put a seed into the ground, it doesn’t grow into a plant unless it dies first. And what you put in the ground is not the plant that will grow, but only a dry little seed of wheat or whatever it is you are planting.” —1 Corinthians 15:36-37

Consider that everything about your old life was nothing more than a “dry little seed.” Now, as a genuine believer, you surrender the dry little seeds in your life to die and be resurrected for His glory—raised to New Life and clothed in God’s righteousness. See yourself as God sees you, and step into His plan and purpose for your life—a mighty child of God prepared for every good work. We are no longer our own, trying to please Him in our own strength.

It is God’s intention to resurrect every aspect of your relationship with Him. Is your marriage dead? Take that dead thing to the altar of God’s grace and ask Him to resurrect your marriage so that it reflects His glory. Does your business or work-life stink from death and decay like Lazarus? Ask God to call forth that dead thing and resurrect it with His Life. Ask Him to resurrect your motives, purpose and vision, so that you will be His light in the darkness of your work place. Allow God’s resurrection principle to work in your life today. —Ω

 Information and Revelation
 Application and Transformation

Heavenly Father, thank You for the New Life You have for me. Thank You for not leaving me in the grave of crucifixion at my confession of faith—You raised me up and put Your Holy Spirit in me. LORD, I desire to walk in Your ways and set apart everything in my life to worship You and please You, for where was I when You spread out the heavens? I ask You to rule and reign in my life, for Your ways are higher and better than my ways!

LORD, I confess today that as Your child, I am not my own because I am bought by the blood of Jesus who gave Himself for me. Thank You for the resurrection power resident in me through the Holy Spirit, giving me victory over sin and death. Help me reckon myself dead so that the whims and worldly pleasures will have no hold on me. Help me pursue the plans and purposes that You have destined for me through Your resurrection power.

LORD, I do not want to live a compromised, unhappy and hypocritical life before others, so I ask You to draw me and woo me into an intimate relationship with You. There, Your amazing love and grace will lead me to the place of sacrifice, where I can willingly surrender the dead things in my life for You to resurrect. Help me release my earthly grip on anything that I have placed my trust. Help me see myself as You see me—Your mighty child prepared for every good work.

LORD, I give You my_____. Like a “dry little seed,” it needs to die so that You can resurrect it to bring You glory. I ask You to raise that dead thing and give it Your eternal life. I lift up these petitions in the name of my precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Your glory. Amen.

By David E McFadden© 2026
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