

“Now What? — Living in the Power of the Resurrection” Part 2

How does the church move forward after the celebration of Resurrection Sunday? What did a first-century church do after that glorious resurrection.

Certainly—this is a rich and deeply pastoral question, and it gets to the heart of what it means not just to **celebrate** the resurrection, but to **live in its power**.

“Now What? — Living in the Power of the Resurrection”

Acts 2:36–47 (NKJV)

Supporting Texts: Matthew 28:18–20; Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8

Acts 2:36–47 NKJV

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

A Vital Church Grows

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.”

⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Let me remind us of the title of today’s message: “Now What? — Living in the Power of the Resurrection” Part 2

I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

Resurrection Sunday is not the conclusion of the gospel—it is the launching point of the Church. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not merely an event to celebrate annually; it is a reality to inhabit daily. The early church did not treat the resurrection as a moment—they treated it as a movement.

Key Theological Truth:

- The resurrection is:
 - The **validation of Christ’s identity (Romans 1:4)**

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Romans 1:4 NKJV

⁴ And declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

- The vindication of His work (**Romans 4:25 NKJV**)

Romans 4:25 NKJV

²⁵ Who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

- The foundation of the Church’s mission (**Matthew 28:18–20**)

Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

Luke 24:46-49 NKJV

⁴⁶ Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,

⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

Observation:

Jesus did not say, “Celebrate this.” He said, “Now go and proclaim this.”

MODERN-DAY INTRODUCTION

In many churches today:

- Easter Sunday is the **highest attendance day**
- But the following Sunday often experiences a **sharp decline**

Why?

Because many treat resurrection as:

- A **holiday**, not a lifestyle
- A **memory**, not a mandate
- A **celebration**, not a commission

Illustration (Modern-Day):

A stadium erupts after a championship win—but if the team never shows up next season, the victory becomes meaningless.

Truth:

The resurrection is not the end of the game—it is the **beginning of the mission**.

TRANSITION: KEY QUESTION

So, what did the first-century church actually do after the resurrection?

Acts 2 gives us the clearest picture.

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I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

II. THEY PREACHED THE RESURRECTION BOLDLY (Acts 2:36)

Acts 2:36 NKJV

³⁶ “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

Reverse for Clarity — Acts 2:36 (NKJV)

³⁶ Let there be no doubt, no confusion, and no uncertainty among you— the very Jesus whom you rejected, condemned, and crucified has been publicly vindicated by God Himself. He is not merely a teacher or prophet— He is both **Lord** (the sovereign ruler) and **Christ** (the promised Messiah).

Explanation:

The first church did not soften the message—they **centered everything on Christ crucified and risen**.

They preached:

- His death
- His resurrection
- His lordship

Biblical Illustration:

Peter—the same man who denied Jesus ([Luke 22](#))—now boldly proclaims Him publicly.

What changed?

The resurrection transformed his fear into boldness.

Modern-Day Illustration:

A believer who once stayed silent at work now shares their testimony after truly grasping that Christ is alive—**not just historically, but personally**.

Pastoral Application:

- **Resurrection power produces resurrection boldness**
- **If Christ is alive, silence is not an option**

Short Prayer:

“Lord, give us boldness not just to celebrate the risen Christ, but to proclaim Him without fear.”

I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

II. THEY PREACHED THE RESURRECTION BOLDLY

III. THEY CALLED FOR A RESPONSE (Acts 2:37–38)

Acts 2:37 (NKJV)

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

Acts 2:37 NKJV

³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”

Explanation:

The resurrection message demands a response.

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Peter did not present information—he pressed for transformation.

[Acts 2:38 \(NKJV\)](#)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Biblical Illustration:

- The Ethiopian eunuch ([Acts 8](#)): immediately responds to the gospel
- The Philippian jailer ([Acts 16](#)): “What must I do to be saved?”

Modern-Day Illustration:

A person attends Easter service, feels conviction—but delays responding. Weeks later, the conviction fades.

Contrast:

Another responds immediately—life is changed.

Pastoral Insight:

The early church did not aim for:

- Decisions later
- Consideration later

They called for **repentance now**.

Short Prayer:

“Lord, help us never to present the gospel without calling for surrender.”

I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

II. THEY PREACHED THE RESURRECTION BOLDLY

III. THEY CALLED FOR A RESPONSE

IV. THEY FORMED A DEVOTED COMMUNITY ([Acts 2:42](#))

[Acts 2:42 \(NKJV\)](#)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Four Pillars:

1. Doctrine (Truth)
2. Fellowship (Community)
3. Breaking of bread (Worship/Communion)
4. Prayers (Dependence)

Explanation:

The resurrection did not produce isolated believers—it produced a committed community.

Biblical Illustration:

Jesus with the disciples (post-resurrection, [John 20–21](#)):

- Teaching
- Eating
- Restoring
- Commissioning

Modern-Day Illustration:

A church that moves beyond Sunday attendance into:

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- Small groups
- Discipleship relationships
- Prayer gatherings

Pastoral Insight:

Resurrection life is not lived in isolation—it is lived in body life.

Short Prayer:

“Lord, build not just attenders, but devoted disciples in authentic community.”

I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

II. THEY PREACHED THE RESURRECTION BOLDLY

III. THEY CALLED FOR A RESPONSE

IV. THEY FORMED A DEVOTED COMMUNITY

V. THEY LIVED WITH AWE AND POWER (Acts 2:43) (8 minutes)

Acts 2:43 (NKJV)

⁴³ Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Explanation:

The resurrection created:

- Awe (reverence)
- Power (evidence)

Biblical Illustration:

Acts 3 — the lame man healed

Result: Glory to God, witness to the people

Modern-Day Illustration:

- A transformed marriage
- A delivered addict
- A restored life

These are modern “signs” of resurrection power.

Pastoral Insight:

The greatest evidence of the resurrection is not just an empty tomb—it is a transformed life.

Short Prayer:

“Lord, let Your resurrection power be evident in our lives.”

I. THEOLOGICAL INTRODUCTION

II. THEY PREACHED THE RESURRECTION BOLDLY

III. THEY CALLED FOR A RESPONSE

IV. THEY FORMED A DEVOTED COMMUNITY

V. THEY LIVED WITH AWE AND POWER

VI. THEY LIVED SACRIFICIALLY (Acts 2:44–45)

Acts 2:44–45 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common,

⁴⁵ and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

Explanation:

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The resurrection reordered their priorities:

- People **over** possessions
- Kingdom **over** comfort

Biblical Illustration:

Barnabas (**Acts 4:36–37**) — sells land to support the church

Acts 4:36–37 NKJV

³⁶ And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated Son of Encouragement), a Levite of the country of Cyprus,

³⁷ having land, sold *it*, and brought the money and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet.

Modern-Day Illustration:

A believer sacrifices time, resources, and comfort to disciple others or support missions.

Pastoral Insight:

When Christ is truly risen in your heart, **ownership becomes stewardship.**

Short Prayer:

“Lord, loosen our grip on temporary things and anchor us in eternal priorities.”

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III. THEY CALLED FOR A RESPONSE

IV. THEY FORMED A DEVOTED COMMUNITY

V. THEY LIVED WITH AWE AND POWER

VI. THEY LIVED SACRIFICIALLY

VII. THEY WORSHIPED AND WITNESSED DAILY (Acts 2:46–47**)**

Acts 2:46–47 (NKJV)

⁴⁶ So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart,

⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.

Explanation:

Their rhythm was:

- Daily worship
- Daily witness
- Daily growth

Biblical Illustration:

Acts 5:42 NKJV

⁴² And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus *as* the Christ.

Modern-Day Illustration:

A believer who integrates faith into:

- Work
- Family
- Community

“Now What? — Living in the Power of the Resurrection” Part 2
Not just Sunday—but every day

Pastoral Insight:

The early church did not have a **“Sunday-only faith.”**

Short Prayer:

“Lord, make our walk with You a daily reality, not a weekly routine.”

FINAL TRANSITION (3 minutes)

So, what does the church do after Resurrection Sunday?

We do exactly what they did:

- We **proclaim Christ**
- We **call for repentance**
- We **build community**
- We **live in power**
- We **sacrifice willingly**
- We **walk daily in worship and witness**

CONCLUSION: THE RESURRECTION CONTINUES (5 minutes)

The resurrection is not behind us—it is within us.

John 14:19 NKJV

¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

Final Illustration:

A power plant generates electricity—but unless homes are connected, the power is unused.

The resurrection is the power source.

The church is the distribution system.

FINAL CALL

The question is not:

“Did you celebrate the resurrection?”

The question is:

“Are you living in it?”

FINAL PRAYER

“Lord Jesus, You are not dead—you are alive.

Forgive us for treating Your resurrection as an event instead of a reality.

Empower Your Church to **live boldly, love deeply, give sacrificially, and proclaim faithfully.**

May the same power that raised You from the dead be evident in us.

In Jesus’ name, Amen.”