



## LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS for the week of May 4, 2025

### The Risen Life *Living in Light of the Resurrection!*

1. Sitting in a prison cell in Nazi Germany, charged with sedition against the Third Reich, the Lutheran pastor and theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: *"It is from the Resurrection of Christ that a new and purifying wind can blow through our present world ... If a few people really believed that and acted on it in their daily lives, a great deal would be changed. To live in the light of the Resurrection – that is what Easter means"* (*Letters and Papers from Prison*). What does it mean to you, personally, "to live in the light of the Resurrection?" How can something that Jesus experienced 2,000 years ago impact our own lives and the life of the entire world *today*?

2. **Read Colossians 3:1-4.** What do you think Paul means when he says, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (v. 3)? (cf. Rom. 6:1-4.)

What do you think is the difference (if there is one!) between Paul's admonition to "*set your minds on things above, not on earthly things,*" and the old saying, "You're so heavenly minded you're no earthly good"? What do you think Paul is getting at here?

The Message paraphrases **Colossians 3:1-2** like this: "So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act like it*. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ – that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective." Which posture best describes *you* lately? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_ Shuffling along, looking down, self-absorbed

\_\_\_\_\_ Alert, looking up, Christ-centered

In your opinion, what are some of the greatest challenges to truly living a "Risen Life" in today's world?

What has helped you to "see things from *his* perspective," rather than your own?

3. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-9.** The ancient Christians that Peter was addressing at this time were suffering heavy persecution under the Emperor Nero. But if that is the case, how do you account for Peter's very upbeat and joyful "tone" in this passage? What difference does the "new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (v. 3) make when we are navigating through times of fiery trials?

Under what fiery circumstances has your faith become more genuine, by melting it down to the essentials?

The Message renders **1 Peter 1:3-4** like this: “Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we’ve been given a new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven – *and the future starts now!*” How does the future “start now” for those living the Risen Life in Christ (cf. **2 Cor. 5:17**)?

4. Think of your life “*Before Christ*,” and your life “*After Christ*.” What would you say are some of the most dramatic changes the Risen Christ has brought about in your life by the power of the Holy Spirit?
5. Shane Claiborne once said: “We need converts in the best sense of the word, people who are marked by the renewing of their minds and imaginations, who no longer conform to the pattern that is destroying our world. Otherwise, we have only believers, and believers are a dime-a-dozen nowadays. What the world needs is people who believe so much in another world that they cannot help but begin enacting it now” (*The Irresistible Revolution*). What would you say are some stubborn “patterns” that are destroying our world right now?

Can you think of some examples (both ancient and modern) of how a resurrection vision, or imagination, has inspired disciples of Jesus to enact their belief in another world right here and now? What exactly does that look like?

6. Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones once said that Christians become a light *to* the world to the degree that they stand out as different *from* the world: “The glory of the gospel is that when the church is absolutely *different from the world*, she invariably attracts it.” Would you agree with his statement? Why or why not?
7. N.T. Wright states: “Christians are called to leave behind, in the tomb of Jesus Christ, all that belongs to the brokenness and incompleteness of the present world. It is time, in the power of the Spirit, to take up our proper role, our fully human role, as agents, heralds, and stewards of the new day that is dawning.” What do you personally need to “leave behind” in the tomb of Jesus today? What do you need to “take up” as a herald of the Risen Life? Pray for one another that Christ will rise brighter than ever in your lives.