

living easter

Day 1: taking our stand

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-2

This passage reminds us that by the Gospel we are saved. It challenges us to hold firmly to the word. Do you find it challenging to hold firmly to the gospel? What circumstances in your life cause you to wobble and not stand firm in your salvation?

Day 2: first importance

Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

Christ died for our sins, He was buried and He was raised again. Why do you feel Paul felt it was of great importance? We are called to celebrate the resurrection daily and live the resurrection daily. What does that look like for you? Maybe it's saying prayers of thanks everyday. Maybe it's forgiving someone even when it seems impossible to do so. Make a list of things that help you celebrate the resurrection every day. Which ones do you find the most challenging? Which ones are easy? Which ones affect and help those around you?

Day 3: eye witnesses

Read 1 Corinthians 15:5-7

After reading this passage, imagine what it would have been like to see Jesus. What would be your reaction? Would you be afraid? Would you be ashamed? Would you be amazed? Would you rejoice? What do the lives of those witnesses of the resurrection tell us about the reliability of their testimony? How reliable is your testimony?

Day 4: I am what I am

Read 1 Corinthians 15:9-11

Paul felt he was the least of the apostles and didn't deserve to be called an apostle. He knew that it was only by the grace of God that he was who he was.

American Pastor Saeed Abedini, who has been imprisoned in Iran since July 2012 and is still currently in a prison where torture and executions are commonplace because he was preaching the gospel, believes and lives out the resurrection daily. He recently wrote his son this letter:

To my dear beloved son Jacob,

I saw your beautiful birthday invitation that you had made me and I know how much you want me to be there on your birthday. Daddy loves you so much. I long to be there for your birthday and to make this reunion happen, but my chains are keeping me from you. I want you to know that although I might NOT BE THERE and you might feel my absence, there is One who always IS. One who is always there with you and who can meet all of your needs under any condition. I might not be there on your birthday and that breaks my heart as your father. But I know the One who is there on your birthday who is there for you and cares for you more than anyone could imagine. HE IS THERE with you and His name is I AM WHO I AM.

I AM WHO I AM. It means that God is there with you in every situation that you are going through. This is the name that God introduced Himself when meeting with Moses in the burning bush when God's people were crying out to Him and were feeling His absence. Today there are many people around the world who are experiencing the same things that the people of God were experiencing and that you are experiencing. They are crying out to God and might not be feeling His Presence. They are wondering where is God in all of this. But I want you to remember that despite what you feel, He is always there with you. Even though I AM NOT there with you, I AM is there with you. God came in human flesh in Jesus Christ all the way from heaven to the earth to give us the gift of salvation by being crucified on the cross for the punishment of our sin.

So on this special day, I want you to accept this gift of salvation. Invite Jesus into your heart as you have invited me to your birthday. So happy birthday to my big boy and my hero, Jacob Cyrus Abedini. Thank you for standing strong with me in this battle for the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Your proud Dad,
Saeed*

Pastor Saeed believes his hope is not in this life but in the next life and that even in his situation God is always with him and it is only by the grace of God that we are who we are.

Day 5: live Easter

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus changes our past, empowers and focuses our present and gives hope to our future. How is this true in your life? How do you believe and live out the resurrection? Take time to rejoice and be thankful for the love that Jesus has for you and live out the resurrection.

Some next steps to consider:

The Reason for God by Timothy Keller

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