

HE LIVES!
Many Infallible Proofs

The song goes: *You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.* If I was questioning someone about the resurrection of Jesus Christ and that was the answer they gave, I would consider it pretty weak. What does it mean anyway; *He lives within my heart?* I think the surest way to convince someone of how we know Christ lives, is by showing them Scripture. If they don't believe the Scripture, that is something we have to leave to the Holy Spirit.

To believe Christ is risen, we must first grasp what the Scripture says about his death, for one cannot live again unless they were first dead. And Jesus was dead. The fact that the Messiah would suffer and die can be easily searched out in the Scriptures. Here are just a few places where according to the Scriptures, it was prophesied that Christ would be bruised, suffer, become wounded, cut off, and smitten:

Genesis 3:15	<i>Thou shalt bruise his heel.</i>
Psalms 22, and Psalm 69	These Psalms depict the <i>suffering Servant</i> .
Isaiah 53	<i>But he was wounded for our transgressions.</i>
Daniel 9:24-26	<i>Shall Messiah be cut off (i.e., in death)</i>
Zechariah 13:7	<i>Smite the Shepherd (Exodus 12:12. Jesus quotes this of himself in Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27).</i>

These passages, some of which are quoted in the New Testament, are the basis for the apostle Paul's claim that **Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures** (1 Cor. 15:3).

The Bible also speaks clearly of Jesus being **buried**, which we would assume meant he was really dead since one is not buried unless he is dead. But, not surprisingly there are some who counter that claim:

The Fainting, or Swoon Theory	Jesus faked His death with drugs provided by his doctor friend, Luke.
He Regained Consciousness Theory	Disciples heard groaning from within the tomb and rescued him.
He was in a Temporary Coma Theory	Somehow, he woke up and escaped.

The weight of the historical and medical evidence indicates that Jesus was dead before the wound by the spear that was thrust into His side (John 19:34). It seems more of a challenge to believe these theories than it is to believe Jesus was actually dead and resurrected as the Scriptures indicate. Paul states emphatically; **and that he was buried** (1 Cor. 15:4).

Unless we establish Jesus died and was buried there would be no sense in trying to present the fact that he rose from the grave. And yet, Scripture is explicit when it comes to Jesus coming back to life and is clear on the purpose (See Romans 14:9).

Psalms 16:10	<i>No corruption of His body</i> (KJV, hell, Hebrew, <i>shâol</i> = <i>the grave</i>).
Isaiah 53:10	<i>His seed shall see their Messiah in the Kingdom.</i>

John 2:22	<i>Disciples remembered what Jesus had said, after His resurrection.</i>
Acts 2:25-33; 13:37	<i>Both Peter and Paul state Jesus saw no corruption.</i>

The apostle Paul states clearly that what he received of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:3) was true; Jesus lives.

The proofs of His resurrection are many, but here are six:

- 1. Jesus Christ Himself.** Throughout His ministry Jesus anticipated his death and resurrection. In John 2:18-21, the Jews asked Him for a sign, he told them, *Here's one, destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up*, verse 21 states that Jesus was talking about the temple of His body. The Jews didn't get it. But look also at Matthew 12:28-40; 16:21; 17:9,23; 20:19; 27:63; Mark 8:31; 9:9,31; 10:34; 14:58; Luke 9:22;18:33.
- 2. The Empty Grave.** This is probably the strongest argument when you begin to really think about it. Consider the grave; a stone tomb, a large stone to seal it, a guard placed in front of it. How could it have been breached when several guards stood watch in order to secure the tomb (Mt. 27:62-65; 28:4,11). If someone did steal the body, why would they take the time to strip it naked first (the burial clothes were left behind)? The enemies of Jesus certainly would not have done it; they wanted him in the tomb.
- 3. The Transformation of the Disciples.** They had been with Jesus for three years and had just watched him die. Wouldn't you agree that a feeling of *all is lost* would come upon you? Despair, discouragement, loss of confidence (remember how joyful they were just a week earlier when Jesus rode into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey?). But suddenly their doubts fled and their confidence returned? What changed? They saw Him, talked with Him, ate with Him (Luke 24:36-45).
- 4. Thousands believed in Him.** Just a few weeks later Peter preached to the Jews in Jerusalem about the risen Christ and on one day alone *about three thousand* believed in Jesus (See Acts 2:41).
- 5. The Gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).** There are four historical accounts which vary in details but all describe the exact chain of circumstances from the empty tomb to the ascension of the Lord (e.g., Matthew 28:9,17; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; John 20:17; Acts 1:9).
- 6. The Apostle Paul.** He said in 1 Cor. 15:8, *Last of all he was seen of me also*. Like the others, everything the apostle did from the moment he met Jesus on the Damascus Road (Acts 9) was attributed to the sudden change when he saw the risen Lord.

All of these proofs help see more clearly, we shouldn't insist on some form of manifestation or vision in order to believe. The Word of God itself of God's revelation of Himself.

Truly, we know He lives because of the many infallible proofs in God's Holy Word.