

**TESTIMONIES OF JESUS' RESURRECTION**  
**THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 2**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 15:5-7**

**THE TESTIMONY OF EYEWITNESSES**

1. It has been repeatedly established throughout history that **reliable** eyewitness testimony is the most important evidence in a court of law.
2. Possessing empirical evidence that Jesus arose from the grave **affirms** the truth of **biblical** account.
3. Paul provides us with a partial list of the resurrection **appearances** and the corresponding eyewitnesses (1 Cor. 15:5-7).
4. There are **more** eyewitness **accounts** of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances than written accounts supporting Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon.

**KEY THOUGHT:** Jesus was exposed to the eyes of **unbelievers** on the cross, but after the resurrection, Jesus was seen by **believers** who could be witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32).

**I. JESUS APPEARED TO PETER (CEPHAS) (1 COR. 15:5a).**

- A. Jesus appeared to Peter after Mary in the Garden (John 20:11-18) and before the two disciples on the Road to **Emmaus** (Luke 24:13-27).
  1. Jesus did not **reveal** Himself immediately to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-16), to the **disciples** traveling toward Emmaus (Luke 24:15, 31), or to the disciples on the evening of the resurrection (John 20:19-20).
  2. One of the requirements for apostleship was having **seen** the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22).
- B. It appears that Jesus emphasized **grace** by appearing to **Peter** first (1 Cor. 15:5a).
  1. Peter had **rejected** the Lord, but Jesus did not **reject** Peter.
  2. Jesus' appearance was **not** because Peter **deserved** to be recognized; however, Peter may have needed Christ's visit the most.

**KEY THOUGHT:** The Lord used Peter as a prime witness at **Pentecost**, and He may have wanted His beloved friend strengthened by **seeing** Jesus resurrected (1 Cor. 15:5).

**II. JESUS APPEARED TO THE TWELVE (1 COR. 15:5b).**

- A. The “twelve” was **descriptive** because Judas and Thomas were missing (John 20:19).
- B. One of the functions of the “twelve” was to be firsthand **witnesses** to the **Resurrection** (Acts 2:24; 3:15; 10:40).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The “twelve” were capable, honest, and **reliable** witnesses to the most **important** event in history.

**III. JESUS APPEARED TO THE FIVE HUNDRED (1 COR. 15:6).**

- A. Scripture does not tell us where and when the event occurred, but many consider the **ascension** a possibility (Matt. 28:16-17).
- B. The disciples were **quality** witnesses who could easily be questioned, and 500 was a **quantity** of witnesses who all saw Jesus resurrected at **one** time.

**IV. JESUS APPEARED TO JAMES (1 COR. 15:7).**

- A. Most scholars believe Jesus appeared to His **half-brother**, James, and not to either of the disciples named James (Mark 3:17-18; Acts 15:13-21).
- B. James and Jesus’ other brothers were originally **skeptics** of Him being the Messiah (John 7:5).
- C. Possibly James and his brothers saw Jesus **resurrected** and believed (Acts 1:3, 14).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Arguments with the unsaved concerning the Resurrection are **pointless**, and sinners who are called by the Holy Spirit are not deterred by intellectual **difficulties** (Matt. 11:25-27).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**February 6, 2011**

**SUNDAY:** ***There were numerous sightings of Jesus after the resurrection, and at one event, 500 people saw him at one time (1 Cor. 15:5-7)!*** It has been repeatedly established throughout history that reliable eyewitness testimony is the most important evidence in a court of law. Possessing empirical evidence that Jesus arose from the grave affirms the truth and accuracy of the biblical accounts of the empty tomb. Paul provides us with a partial list of the resurrection appearances and the corresponding eyewitnesses (1 Cor. 15:5-7). Of course not all of the resurrection appearances are noted in the Bible (John 21:1-14). Interestingly, there are more eyewitness accounts that support the various post-resurrection appearances than written accounts of Julius Caesar crossing the Rubicon to establish the new Roman Empire. There are no credible historians that attack this act that led to the uprising that placed Julius Caesar on the throne in Rome. Praise God for the faith that has allowed you to accept the fact of Jesus' resurrection. Ask for strength to present transformational evidence when you are asked to support the resurrection with scientific evidence. ***May this Easter Celebration be one of the most meaningful of your Christian life!***

**MONDAY:** ***Personally seeing the Resurrected Christ was one requirement to be an apostle (Acts 1:22)!*** Jesus was exposed to the eyes of unbelievers on the cross, but after the Resurrection, Jesus was seen by believers who could be witnesses of His resurrection (Acts 1:22; 2:32; 3:15; 5:32). Paul records that Jesus appeared to Peter while he was alone (1 Cor. 15:5a). When did Jesus appear to Peter? He appeared to Peter after Mary saw Him in the Garden (John 20:11-18) before the two disciples traveling to Emmaus walked and talked to Jesus (Luke 24:13-27). Interestingly, Jesus did not reveal Himself immediately to Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-16), to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:15, 31), or to the disciples on the evening of the Resurrection (John 20:19-20). Why did Jesus appear to these individuals and to small groups? One of the requirements for apostleship was having seen the Resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22). As you sit quietly and pray today, think about what it would have been like to encounter Jesus after His resurrection. What would you have said? Thank the Lord for this intimate time of communion, and open yourself to the Holy Spirit's instructions. ***May the significance Jesus placed on His own resurrection cause you to value its truth and power more in your life!***

**TUESDAY:** ***Jesus possibly appeared to Peter soon after the Resurrection to help restore His broken disciple (John 20:11-18)!*** Paul was not necessarily presenting Jesus' appearances in chronological order. If Peter was the first to receive a visit from the Resurrected Christ, it was a gracious act to restore a friend that had miserably failed (1 Cor. 15:5a). Peter had rejected the Lord, but Jesus did not reject Peter. Jesus did not appear to Peter because he deserved to be recognized; however, Peter may have needed the visit the most. The Lord used Peter as a prime witness at Pentecost. This visit may have been to strengthen His beloved friend through this personal encounter. How has Jesus restored you before? Praise and thank the Lord for His restoration of your soul and life. Who in your life would benefit from a restorative visit or phone call? ***May Jesus' modeling of restorative behavior be a template for your behavior every day!***

**WEDNESDAY:** *Jesus appeared to the men He knew best (John 20:19)!* Jesus appeared to His disciples. Paul referred to them as the “twelve” (1 Cor. 15:5b). The phrase “the twelve” was meant to be descriptive of the group because Paul knew that Judas would have been disassociated from the group and Thomas was missing (John 20:19). It seems apparent that one of the functions of the disciples was to be firsthand witnesses of the Resurrection (Acts 2:24; 3:15; 10:40). The “twelve” were capable, honest, and reliable witnesses to the most important event in history. These men knew Jesus’ mannerisms, speech patterns, carriage, and deportment. No fake could have deceived these loyal followers. How well do you really know Jesus? Do you know the words of Jesus well, and could you tell someone how He would think in a given situation? Ask the Lord how you can know Him better. Commit to studying the Word and meditating on the wealth of wisdom and knowledge about Jesus. *May your decision to “be with” Jesus become a passion in your life!*

**THURSDAY:** *Jesus appeared to a large crowd after His resurrection (1 Cor. 15:6)!* Paul relates that Jesus was seen by 500 people at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6). Scripture does not tell us when and where this event occurred or if a similar event happened more than once. Many biblical historians and scholars conclude that this crowd could have been gathered for Jesus’ ascension into heaven (Matt. 28:16-17). These 500 may have heard the Lord give His final command we call the Great Commission (vv. 18-20). Regardless, the “twelve” were quality witnesses who could easily and thoroughly be questioned by interested parties. The crowd of 500 offered the quantity of witnesses that saw Jesus all at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6). What evidence do you require to be motivated to completely trust Jesus with your life? You are invited to reflect on Jesus’ sacrifice that paid for sin’s penalty and the power that His resurrection brings to your life hidden in Him (Rom. 6:3-11). *May the Resurrection of Jesus begin to cast a shadow over your life as a disciple of Christ!*

**FRIDAY:** *Jesus strengthened had a different relationship with His brother James after the resurrection (Acts 1:3, 14)!* Most scholars believe Jesus appeared to His half-brother, James, and not to either of the disciples named James (Mark 3:17-18). James became a devoted believer and was an influential leader in the church at Jerusalem (Acts 15:13-21). James and Jesus’ other brothers were originally skeptics of Jesus being the Messiah (John 7:5). Possibly, seeing Jesus after His resurrection brought them to faith because later they all believed (Acts 1:3, 14). Studying and reflecting on the Resurrection of Jesus can form a great foundation for theological discussion to deepen your fellowship with your partners in ministry. Review your study notes for the week. Sit and be still before the Lord, and allow Him to speak to you about what you have taken in this week. Seek to know how you are to respond to the Spirit’s leadership in light of the glorious resurrection of Jesus. *May your walk with Christ become a manifestation of scripture (Rom. 6:3-11)!*

**SATURDAY:** *Alternative theories of how Jesus’ body was removed from the tomb eventually disintegrate, and the Gospel wins their hearts (Matt. 11:25-27)!* Arguments with the unsaved about the Resurrection are pointless. Unbelievers will advance various theories that are always fraught with absurd assumptions and presuppositions. Sinners who are called by the Holy Spirit to salvation are not deterred by these intellectual difficulties (Matt. 11:25-27). Fervently pray for these searchers whom you may encounter to be called by the Holy Spirit to a salvation relationship with Jesus, empowered by His Resurrection! *May Jesus’ resurrection become more precious to you every day!*