



## Resurrection Life (Selected Scriptures)

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Eph.1:16-21; This resurrection power begins in someone's life when they receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. See Eph.1:13-14; 2:1-8. We are all born spiritually dead. What this means is that we are born sinners (Rom.3:23; 6:23). Because of sin we will one day die physically (Heb.9:27). This past Tuesday evening, my daughter Audra let out a gasp and said, "Mrs. Pelligrino died." She saw the news on Facebook. Mrs. Pelligrino was Audra's 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. Anybody have someone you know who has recently died? Except for two people in all of human history, every human being ever born has died. Genesis chapter 5 tells us about a man named Enoch, the father of the oldest man who ever lived, Methuselah. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old, but he one day died. Here's what the Bible says about his dad Enoch – "Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away" (NIV). Elijah left planet earth in an amazing way. II Kings 2:11 says "As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind."

Don't get your hopes up. Apart from the rapture of the church in my time, I'm going to die. And so are you. And guess what else? Every person has a God given knowledge that death is not the end (Eccl.3:11). Now let me give you one more point of biblical revelation that is both fascinating and potentially frightening. Some people will die more than once (Rev.2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8).

The way to escape hell and the second death? Be born a second time (John 3:3, 5-6).

### Salvation invitation

Now that everybody here is born again, back to our text (Eph.1:19-20a). I experience resurrection power when I first receive Christ. But I need resurrection power to continue to live for Christ. See II Cor.1:8-9. Mark Williams needed resurrection power to overcome his failure. Tonya Williams needed resurrection power to forgive his failure!

Resurrection power in the life of a Christian is renewed only one way. Deny myself, take up my cross... That's when resurrection power began in my life, and that is the only way it can be renewed...

If there was ever a Bible character that manifested resurrection power, it has to be Samson. No one could figure out the secret to Samson's great strength. He slew a lion with his bare hands, struck down thirty Philistines, caught 300 foxes, tied them tail to tail, fastened a torch to each tail, and let them loose in the grain fields and vineyards of the Philistines, killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey, pulled of the posts and doors of a city gate and carried them some forty miles, uphill! But as you read carefully the story of Samson, you see seeds of sin that cause him to one day lose the power of God upon his life. It began with a romantic relationship that did not honor God. It continued with secret sin that was too sweet to resist. Samson became prideful, and that pride fueled his anger as a result of life not turning out the way he had planned. With his love life ruined, we find him sleeping with a prostitute. Later he enters into another romantic relationship out of the will of God. It was during this relationship that he lost the power of God upon his life. The enemy captured him, gouged out his eyes, and put shackles on him and set him to grinding in the prison. But one day, as the Philistines were worshipping their god Dagon, they brought Samson out to mock him. He prayed, "O Sovereign Lord, strengthen me just once more..." God heard his prayer, and, bracing himself against the two pillars on which the temple to Dagon stood, he "pushed with all his might." Supernatural power was in an instant once again flowing through him. Down came the temple on the thousands gathered. And these words are written about the end of Samson's life: "Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived."