

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....” John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a



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The Joy Of Easter

5 Ways to celebrate the joy of Easter every day By Dr. Randy Carlson

There’s no doubt about it – the Easter season is special. It’s a time to remember Christ’s sacrificial love and joyfully celebrate the freedom of broken chains! There’s something beautiful that happens to our soul when we meditate on the gift that God gave us in His Son. What would our lives look like if we kept hold of that feeling all year long?

As we approach this season, I want to share five practical ways that we can intentionally celebrate the resurrection every day, throughout the year.

1. Remember the gospel daily

Many of us have heard the Easter story countless times. The Good News of Christ’s victory and our status as His children and heirs often falls on numb ears and hearts. This should never be the case! Let’s remind ourselves daily of the truths of the cross with a fresh mind and soul, as if we’d never heard it before. Meditate on the victory that was won there for us, the defeat of sin and shame, and the power of the Holy Spirit that’s now alive in us.

2. Die to self

The cross is the symbol of Jesus’ sacrifice for the world – the physical death and taking on of our iniquities past, present and future – that means eternal victory over sin and shame. If we live each day remembering the power of this sacrifice, we can live as we’re called to: crucifying our selfishness, our entitlement and our lack of love and sympathy, while putting off the old self at the foot of that wonderful cross.

3. Focus on the eternal

The Resurrection means that a way has been made for us. We’re promised eternal life with God because our debt has been paid with Jesus’ blood. Because we’re secure in our eternity, we need to remember to live each day holding fast to this truth. Don’t buy the lies that this world is trying to sell us. Reject the desire to clamor for accomplishments and possessions in this fleeting earthly life. Instead, fix our eyes on the treasure that is forever ours – eternal life with our Creator.

4. Celebrate and rejoice!

When we recall the wonder of the Resurrection, we’re called to rejoice! Our response to the complete end of our sin and shame should be to worship the Lamb who was slain in full voice and fervor. We can celebrate each day the Lord has given us by viewing it as a gift, knowing that our future is secure in Him because of His victory.

5. Share the Good News

After the risen Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene at the tomb, she immediately ran into town to tell the apostles what she’d seen. We’re called to spread the news of Christ’s redeeming love and sacrifice to all – making “disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19 ESV).

KEY VERSE

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Hebrews 12:1-3; John 16:19-22; Luke 24:1-8

Joy Of Easter

1. Hebrews 12:2 describes a joy that was set before Jesus that helped Him to endure the cross. Why did Jesus have to endure the cross?
2. In what ways has God given us joy through Easter that no one can take from us (John 16:22)?

Tuesday: Philippians 4:4; I Thessalonians 5:16; Psalm 32:11

Rejoice In The Lord Always

3. Why do you think that the command to rejoice is given twice in our key verse of Philippians 4:4?
4. According to today's scripture reading, where does the source of our joy come from?

Wednesday: I Thessalonians 1:5-6; John 15:11

Easter Joy Is Beyond Happiness

5. What is your definition of joy?
6. I Thessalonians 1:6 describes how the Thessalonians received the word (in much affliction, with joy). How is it possible to have joy during difficult times in our lives?

Thursday: Matthew 28:1-8; I Corinthians 15:12-20a

Easter Joy Is Based On The Resurrection

7. How do you think the followers of Jesus were feeling after the crucifixion?
8. The resurrection caused great joy for the women who went to the tomb (Matthew 28:8). How does the resurrection cause joy for you today?
9. What would it mean to us if the resurrection didn't happen? Why is the resurrection so important to our faith?

Friday: Acts 16:25-34; Romans 10:9-10,13

Easter Joy Is Received By Believing

10. In Acts 16:34, the jailer's belief in Jesus led to rejoicing. How has belief in Jesus led to joy in your life?
11. If someone in your life doesn't have the joy that comes from believing in Jesus, how would you counsel them to have joy in their lives?
12. List things you can rejoice over this Easter.