



We have just celebrated Easter Sunday. Jesus is Risen and I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of you. Nothing is impossible with God and He made that obvious when Jesus walked out of the tomb! We follow and serve a God who is always victorious and who is always faithful. I have discovered that so many times in my life and I am sure you have as well but we often forget His faithfulness and His power to overcome when we are face to face with another bump on our journey through life. I don't know what you're facing today. We all face different things at different times and some of those challenges can seem insurmountable for you at times. In times like these it is hard to be positive or be full of joy. Perhaps you worry because you have no idea what the future holds for you. So, in the midst of all that can be happening in your life how can the resurrection of Jesus give you hope today? Well, the thing is that it really doesn't matter what you're facing. I have had many years to learn that when I have been in the depth of despair, or going through trials and uncertainty, the hope of the resurrection of Jesus was the thing that got me through. It did not take me long in my walk with Jesus to come to the conclusion that if God can raise Jesus from the dead, He can certainly take care of whatever problem I was facing. During a really hard time in my life, the Lord reminded me that He was risen, He

was real, He was there for me. The same assurance is there for all who call Jesus Lord. Sometimes we have to go through the problems we face, even though we wish we didn't need to. Jesus had to go through death and hell to come out victorious on the other side and ascend to be seated at the right hand of God the Father. We sometimes have to walk through the valley of the shadow of death as the Psalmist said. The victory of Easter should be our springboard to live a life where we are not afraid or discouraged. Even if you sit at home and are shut in, housebound and feeling isolated, you are not alone. He is victorious! Death could not hold Him! Nothing could hold Him back! Nothing is impossible with God! Whatever your circumstances are today just focus on Jesus who is risen! It's time for all of us to not dwell on how big our problem is today but instead put your trust on God who holds His solution in His hands!



Now, of course there will be times we feel disappointment but that is usually because we did not get what we wanted. Don't dwell on your feeling of disappoint but instead focus on the victory we have through Jesus. If there was ever a time for us to change how we see our lives, it should be the days after Easter. I love the fact that Easter is a beginning, not an ending. It's the beginning of the fresh start all of our hearts long for. Sorry to let you know that it isn't about fluffy bunnies and pastel colors – it's about the radical death, relentless love and revolutionary power of our God. The cross, the empty grave and the resurrected Jesus not only give us a reason to hope for a new future, they give us the power to change our lives. Rather than us trying hard to change ourselves, it is the resurrection of Jesus that changes us. Jesus' resurrection gives us a new identity. Your identity is not in the choices you make or what you accomplish, but in who Jesus' resurrection has made you to be.