

# Many Infallible Proofs

A Sunday School Lesson about the Heart of  
the Christian Message

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Based on an Article By Tim Chaffey, Answers in Genesis



# So What's the Big Deal about the Resurrection?

- Without the Resurrection we have no message
- Without the Resurrection our faith is empty
- Without the Resurrection the Apostles are liars
- Without the Resurrection we are still in our sins
- Without the Resurrection our deceased loved ones have perished
- Without the Resurrection our current life is miserable and we have no future



# From Church Historian Philip Schaff

“The Christian church rests on the resurrection of its Founder. Without this fact the church could never have been born, or if born, it would soon have died a natural death. The miracle of the resurrection and the existence of Christianity are so closely connected that they must stand or fall together. If Christ was raised from the dead, then all his other miracles are sure, and our faith is impregnable; if he was not raised, he died in vain and our faith is vain. It was only his resurrection that made his death available for our atonement, justification and salvation; without the resurrection, his death would be the grave of our hopes; we should be still unredeemed and under the power of our sins. A gospel of a dead Savior would be a contradiction and wretched delusion. This is the reasoning of St. Paul, and its force is irresistible. The resurrection of Christ is therefore emphatically a test question upon which depends the truth or falsehood of the Christian religion. It is either the greatest miracle or the greatest delusion which history records.”

“Everything hinges on the Resurrection. If Jesus arose, He is the Son of God and Christianity is true.”  
Tim Chaffey



# Infallible Proofs?

The Greek word translated as “infallible proofs” is τεκμηρίοις (*tekmēriois*), a technical term from logic that refers to that which causes something “*to be known in a convincing and decisive manner, **proof***”.

“To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:” Acts 1:3



# What Would It Take to Convince You Someone was Alive from the Dead?

Of course, the best evidence would be an opportunity to spend time with that person again—you could see him walk and talk, and you could eat with him. That's precisely what Luke is referring to here. After being crucified, Jesus showed Himself alive by appearing to the disciples on several occasions. He walked with them, talked with them, and ate with them.



# So Who Saw the Risen Christ?

- Mary Magdalene ([John 20:11–18](#))
- The other Mary, Salome, Joanna, and at least one other woman ([Matthew 28:1](#); [Mark 16:1](#); [Luke 24:10](#))
- Peter ([Luke 24:34](#); [1 Corinthians 15:5](#))
- Cleopas and another disciple on road to Emmaus ([Luke 24:13–35](#))
- The eleven disciples minus Thomas ([Luke 24:36–43](#); [John 20:19–25](#))
- The eleven disciples ([John 20:26–29](#))
- Seven disciples at the Sea of Tiberias ([John 21:1–23](#))
- Disciples at a mountain in Galilee ([Matthew 28:16–17](#))
- James ([1 Corinthians 15:7](#))
- Disciples, possibly in Jerusalem before He led them to the Mt. of Olives, gave the Great Commission, and ascended into heaven ([Luke 24:49–53](#); [Acts 1:3–11](#))





# But It Was More than Seeing!

Christ's words in [John 20:17](#) seem to imply that Mary Magdalene clung to Him, indicating that He could be touched. The other women worshiped Him and held Him by the feet ([Matthew 28:9](#)). He broke bread in front of Cleopas and an unnamed follower ([Luke 24:30](#)). He showed His scars in His hands, feet, and side and then ate fish and a honeycomb before the gathering of disciples without Thomas ([Luke 24:40–43](#); [John 20:20](#)). Later, with Thomas present, Jesus invited Thomas to touch His hands and His side ([John 20:26–27](#)). At the Sea of Tiberias, He performed a miracle, allowing the disciples to catch 153 large fish ([John 20:6–11](#)). He also cooked and ate some food ([John 20:9, 15](#)). Paul claimed that Jesus had appeared to over 500 people at one time ([1 Corinthians 15:6](#)). This may be an additional appearance, or it may be the same event as the one on the hillside in Galilee ([Matthew 28:16–17](#)).



# Other Infallible Proofs

The report in *1 Corinthians 15* is probably the earliest extant writing about the Resurrection appearances, penned around AD 55. Paul claimed that he was writing what he had received. What was the source of the message that Paul preached? It could have been given to him directly by Jesus ([\*Galatians 1:12\*](#)), although here he was probably referring to his meetings with Peter and James in Jerusalem within five years of the Crucifixion and Resurrection ([\*Galatians 1:18–19\*](#)).<sup>3</sup> Paul wrote that he went to “see Peter” ([\*v. 18\*](#)). The word translated as “see” is from the root ἵστορέω (*historēō*), which refers to inquiring for the purpose of coming to know someone or something, and from which we derive our English word *history*. So Paul told the Galatians that he not only received his message from Jesus, but also had it confirmed by Peter and James. Even the critical scholars acknowledge that Paul received this teaching within a few years of the death of Jesus.

**Just the  
Facts**





# Still More Infallible Proofs

- Some skeptics claim that the idea of the Resurrection was simply a legend that grew for several decades before being written down.
- 1 Corinthians 15:1–9 smashes this objection. Not only is five years much too short a time for such a legend to develop, but Paul cites a bunch of eyewitnesses “of whom the greater part remain unto this present” (1 Corinthians 15:6.)
- Essentially, he told the Corinthians, “Hey, if you don’t believe me, then go ask one of these guys.”



# But there is More Evidence

- Paul told the Greek philosophers who gathered in the Areopagus in Athens that God had “hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him (Jesus) from the dead. (Acts 17:31).
- “Proof” is from the Greek πίστιν (pistin) and refers to “a token offered as a guarantee of something promised.” It is a “proof” or “pledge

• PROOF •  
POSITIVE



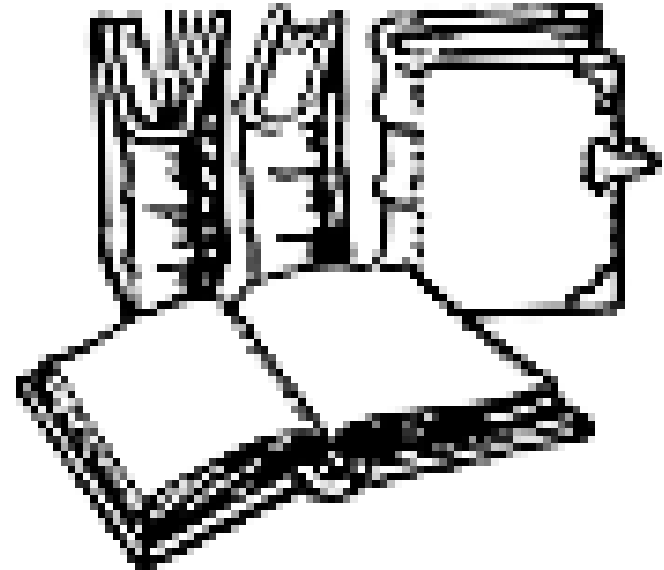
# What Jesus Said

- Jesus said on multiple occasions that His death and Resurrection would be the one sign He would give to an unbelieving and wicked generation. When asked by the Jews to perform a sign, He predicted His Resurrection by saying, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (John 2:19). Later, some scribes and Pharisees asked Him for a sign, and Jesus replied, “An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: 40 For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Matthew 12:39–40). He gave a similar response to such a request in Matthew 16:1–4 as well.
- In one of His debates with the Pharisees, Jesus said, “It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.” (John 8:17). This oft-repeated concept refers back to Deuteronomy 19:15—“by the mouth of two or three witnesses the matter shall be established.” This same idea is at the heart of the American judicial system. Witnesses appear in trials to help establish the truth of the matter. Prior to the use of modern forensic experts and recording devices, reliable eyewitnesses were essential. People believe in the historicity of many past events because of eyewitness testimony without ever seeing photographic evidence for those events.
- Multiple reliable eyewitnesses testified that Jesus was alive after being dead and buried. Some of these eyewitness accounts have been preserved for us in the Bible, and because this is the inspired and inerrant Word of God, Scripture is actually another infallible proof of the Christ’s Resurrection.



# Something More to Think About

- The Conversion of James
- The Conversion of Paul
- The Change in the Apostles
- The Empty Tomb
- The Existence of the Church
- The Universal Testimony of the New Testament
- The Principle of Embarrassment
- The Nazareth Inscription
- The Change in Our Own Lives



# Conclusion

Christians can have the utmost confidence in the death, burial, and Resurrection of Jesus since God's Word accurately tells us about these historical events. These central truths of the Christian faith were also witnessed by hundreds of people. Jesus was publicly executed on a Cross, buried in Joseph's tomb (Mark 15:42–47), and seen alive again by more than 500 people at the same time. The post-Resurrection appearances of Jesus are infallible proofs that He conquered death and God's Word the infallible proof of the event in our world today.

By raising Jesus from the dead, God demonstrated His affirmation of Christ's work and ministry. Since He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6) and those who deny Jesus also deny the Father (1 John 2:23), it is essential that you consider what your response to Jesus will be. If you have not done so already, will you repent of your sins (Acts 3:19; 17:30), "confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead," and be saved (Romans 10:9)? Or will you continue in your rebellion, rejecting the only one who can save you from your sins? He is "the resurrection and the life" and the one who believes in Christ, though he may die, will live eternally with Him (John 11:25).

There is no middle ground when it comes to your relationship with God—either you belong to Him by personal faith in Jesus Christ or you do not.

