



E A S T E R

You've probably heard this familiar call and response, especially if you have been around the church for a few years, or grew up going to church:

"HE IS RISEN!"

With the Response...

"HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

It's clear, catchy, and true! However, with the culture in which we live in today, we may quickly pass through Easter as quickly as we proclaim the words above. But, this is the greatest moment in all of history and the temptation is to lose awe of what Christ has done:

- Christ came to us fully God & fully man
- Lived the perfect life
- Became the perfect sacrifice
- Died on our behalf to atone for the sins of humanity
- Satisfied the wrath of God
- Raised from the dead,
- Reconciled us back to the Father
- Ultimately gave us a way to be with the Father for all of eternity

What might it look like to slow down, meditate, reflect, and yes, CELEBRATE His death and Resurrection? Paul David Tripp reminds us that we are "awe amnesiacs," or, in other words, people who quickly forget the awe of God and replace it with awe of self or something else. In light of this, let's start with setting our awe on Him and remember who He is and what He has done.

In this first exercise, meditate on scripture that reveals the grandeur of Christ. Take note of what is stirred up inside of you as you worship Him through adoring who He is.

JOHN 1:1-5 (READ 1-18 FOR MORE)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

There are three things that completely change that we can rejoice exceedingly in because of the work of the cross. In Christ we have a New Identity, a New Way of Life, and a New Hope.

Spend 5 minutes in prayer over each (15 minutes total) about the ways Christ has made us new and alive in him.

NEW IDENTITY: Read Ephesians 2:1-10 & Romans 8:14-17

List three words that describe who you were before putting your faith in Christ and three words that describe who you are now because of your faith in Christ. In what ways has your old identity directed your view of self and God? In what ways has your new identity in Christ changed this? Express gratitude for your new identity. Write down a short letter of thanks to Him in regards to His view of you because of Christ.

NEW WAY OF LIFE: Read Galatians 5:13-26

Because of His death and resurrection, there is freedom from the bondage of sin. We are now sealed with the Spirit, which enables us to walk in step with Him instead of the flesh. How have you reaped and sowed the old life and what did it produce? What have you reaped and sowed in this new life with Christ and what did it produce? What have you noticed about the difference between the two as you look at your life?

NEW HOPE: Read 1 Peter 1:3-9

Jesus brought us a new hope. One that never fades, gives us eternity, and one that we can live in now. The life lived before Christ was one that leads to death (Romans 3:23) but he has given us eternal life, that is to know the one true God and Jesus Christ (John 17:6). What treasures of this fading world have you stored up in your heart and have put your hope in to satisfy what God only can? What would it look like to live in the hope of Christ not just for your salvation but in your present everyday life?

Wrap up this time with thanksgiving. Magnify the Lord for who he is, what he has done, and how he has given us a gift of grace to enter into relationship with him through Jesus Christ.