

Living Faith is Faith in Action – Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:4-11, John 15:4-5

Introduction

We began the *Faith that Lives* series on Easter, declaring Christ alive and anchoring our faith in the resurrection. James asked whether the faith we claim is actually alive, warning against talk without transformation. Last week we learned that resurrection faith produces living faith. Today we move from discovery to daily practice: how does union with the risen Christ shape daily obedience? How does living Faith drive us into action? This is important because Living Faith is Faith in Action.

Today, I'd like to continue where last week's message ended, shifting our focus from understanding the issue at hand to discussing practical day-to-day living. James showed us that genuine faith presents itself through Kingdom works. Now we ask: *How does that happen? Or what does that look like?* How does the resurrection, Christ raised from the dead, translate into the obedience James calls for? The answer is not more willpower or better moral behavior. Those things can be beneficial, but the real answer is union with the risen Christ. Resurrection faith changes how we live. It brings new life to our faith and joins us together with Jesus. It continues from there as Christ living in us and shows itself through our everyday trust and obedience.

If last week's message asked whether your faith is alive, today's message will ask how that living faith works in your day-to-day activities. It is not a call to try harder. Instead, it is an invitation to abide deeper.

Resurrection Faith Begins with Union, Not Effort

Read Galatians 2:20

Paul doesn't say, "I am trying to follow Christ." He says, "*I have been crucified with Christ.*" That past-tense declaration is decisive for Paul and for every believer. The Christian life does not begin with moral resolutions or self-improvement programs; it begins with Jesus' death and resurrection and our union in that with him.

Think of the grafted branch in **John 15:4-5**. A branch bears fruit not by its own power but because it is joined to the vine. Its life flows from that connection; sever it and it withers. Likewise, our identity is not "I can do better on my own." It is "I am better because I am connected to Christ."

Too often we start in the wrong place: often, our day begins with, I must fix this; I must perform. I must get it right. That mindset breeds exhaustion, guilt, and a religion of self-help. Resurrection faith starts with being joined and connected to the Source. The work has already been done in and through Christ. Accept it and embrace it because it's true.

Jesus taught that our task is to abide in him: *“apart from me you can do nothing.”* When guilt or performance drive you, stop and remember Galatians 2:20. Fix your attention on the reality that you are one with Christ. Let that truth shape your daily motivation and become the source of your strength and fruitfulness.

Resurrection Life Is Christ Living in Us

Paul said, *“it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”* (Galatians 2:20a) This is the heart of resurrection faith. Christianity is not primarily Christ helping you live your life; it is Christ living his life through you. Imagine a lamp plugged into an outlet: the lamp does not generate power; it receives it. Many believers try to be the power source or feel pressured to be. Living faith learns to stay plugged into the true source and to trust him completely.

Guilt and performance often reveal we are attempting to produce life by our own effort. When shame or duty drive you, ask whether you are trying to be the source or whether you are plugged into Jesus. Spiritual disciplines are not ways to manufacture life but are means to maintaining connection. Prayer, Scripture, worship, and fellowship are the cord that keeps us joined to the risen Lord; they are the practices of abiding.

So, choose one simple daily discipline this week to help you abide. Spend five minutes reading and meditating on Scripture. Offer a brief prayer of surrender. Take a moment of silence inviting Christ’s presence into a situation. Be creative and trust the Spirit’s work. Small, consistent practices are not performance metrics; they are lifelines that keep you receiving Christ’s life. When you stop striving to be the source and instead remain connected, Christ’s life can flow through you, shaping your choices, empowering obedience, and producing fruit that reflects resurrection power. Let this be your daily posture: not striving but receiving, trusting Christ to work through ordinary moments, decisions, and relationships so his life is visible every day.

Trust Shows Up in Everyday Obedience

Paul writes, *“The life I now live in the flesh I live by faith.”* (Galatians 2:20b) Faith is not merely an idea; it is practical trust that shapes daily choices. James warned that faith without works is dead; now we see how works flow from trusting the One who lives in us.

Consider forgiveness when bitterness feels justified. Trusting Christ lets Him be your vindicator; forgiving, acts on the reality that justice and mercy are ultimately secured in Him. Consider generosity when resources feel tight. Trusting the Lord with your wallet says, “My security is in Him, not in my bank balance.” Consider obedience again: following Jesus often requires sacrifice. Obedience often means choosing what honors Him even when it costs.

Faith is not merely believing a chair can hold you; it’s sitting down. Resurrection faith is a posture of trust and not a performance test. Each obedient act becomes small, visible proof that Christ’s life is at work in you.

This week, identify one place to “sit down” in Christ. Maybe it’s a relationship that needs forgiveness, a financial decision that requires trust, or a step of obedience you’ve been avoiding. Choose one action and make it immediately. Make that call, that apology, give the gift, or a specific yes or no. When you act in faith, you practice dependence on Christ and invite his life to shape your habits. Small, faithful steps matter because they reorient your heart and train your trust. Let your obedience be an expression of the life Christ lives through you. Take one faithful step and watch how trust, not effort, begins to change the way you live.

Resurrection Life Produces New Direction

Read Romans 6:4–11

The resurrection gives us a new trajectory. New life does not mean instant perfection. It means a new direction. We are not perfected overnight, but we are reoriented towards a path that allows the living Christ to change us. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us, enabling us to walk differently, enabling us to talk differently, and giving us a faith that is alive and active.

If you have struggled repeatedly, the resurrection does not erase the past instantly, but it absolutely changes the path forward. Small, faithful steps matter. The Christian life is a journey of progressive transformation, traveled down a path with the greatest travel companion ever.

I have one other suggestion for you. Pick an area where you want to walk differently or speak differently and set a small, measurable step for the week. Whatever the Spirit leads you to do, celebrate the step, the movement with Jesus, and not just the accomplishment.

Invitation

Faith lives because Christ lives. Some of you are exhausted from striving. Some have accepted Easter’s facts but never surrendered. Some have trusted Christ yet let obedience grow distant. The risen Lord invites you to live with him. If the Spirit prompts you to stop striving and start trusting, if you need to surrender control, renew your trust, or receive Christ for the first time; this is your moment. Come forward or simply pray where you are. Remember, this is not about performance; it is about trust and belief. Sit and abide with Christ and let him live in you. If you’re already walking this way, encourage someone to take one faithful step: share your story, invite them to pray, and let your life be a witness to the resurrection’s living power.

Closing Prayer

Jesus, we confess how often we try to live for You instead of living from You. Forgive us for striving in our own strength. Teach us to abide. Teach us to trust. Teach us to draw daily strength from Your life. Fill us with Your Spirit so that You may live through us in daily obedience. Help us to walk in newness of life, not by our power but by Yours. We believe You are alive. Help us to live like it is true. Amen.