

Proof that Jesus is alive

No living witnesses, no historical proof - now what?!

At Easter time, Christians make a most outrageous claim, that their founder, Jesus Christ, came back from the dead and is alive as God right now.

Even some Christians find that hard to believe, well-known ones too, some of whom dismiss the entire Easter story as myth and legend. But if it's true, that Jesus really did rise from the dead, there should be clear and obvious evidence, right?

Unfortunately, the only detailed record of the resurrection is in the Bible, and many scholars dismiss it as a fraud, claiming it was added by Christ's disciples at a later date to make it look as though Jesus was resurrected. Forget history, then, it raises too many doubts and challenges. But if history's no help and we weren't there in person to witness the resurrection, what are we left with?

The Bible tells us what we're left with, in **2 Corinthians 3:18**. It's us. Christians themselves are the living witness that Jesus is alive. How? By our remarkable likeness to Jesus Christ, caused by Jesus himself.

But what's so great about that, a Muslim, Buddhist or Jew may ask, when the influence of their leaders has been transforming people for hundreds and thousands of years in remarkable ways, too? That's true, Christians say, but it's not Jesus' influence from 2,000 years ago that makes Christians what they are, it's Jesus himself. [“We are being transformed into Christ's likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord.”](#) In other words, it's being done directly by Jesus who's alive right now, not by his writings, or even his life, from many years ago.

As Paul writes in **Galatians 2:20**. [“I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”](#) Paul believed Christ was alive and living in him right there and then, because of what Christ was doing in him personally. That's why he said [“I live by faith in the Son of God,”](#) because he'd experienced again and again the remarkable changes that only a living Christ could have created in him.

But how did Paul know it was Christ causing these changes in him? Because the life Jesus lived and the standards he set were way beyond human reach. Who among us, for instance, loves his enemies, never retaliates and always forgives? Who never worries, never demands justice and never gossips? Who drops everything to apologize to someone he's offended? But those are the standards Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Read all of Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7 and you throw your hands up in despair. No way can a human being do all that on his own strength.

To live by Christ's teachings and live the way he lived requires a strength beyond ours, because the standards Jesus set are diametrically opposite to the way we naturally think and react. We naturally hate our enemies, retaliate automatically when wronged, defend ourselves vehemently if accused, and scream for justice when we're unfairly dealt with. And when would we apologize for wrong done when it's "not our fault?!"

It's such a relief, then, to discover what Jesus said is true, that he would send his Spirit to live his ideals in us, and we can experience the reality of that promise every day in the most intimate, practical and personal ways.

No wonder Christians celebrate at Easter. And why not, when you've experienced firsthand a transformation in your life that could only be classed as miraculous? It's the best proof on offer that Jesus is alive. What is? We are!