

FRESH START

The Sunday after Easter 2026. Various Passages.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. April 12, 2026.

FRESH START

On Easter Sunday, we focused on:

- The decision to turn from self and sin to trust in Jesus as our God and Savior
- But that is only the beginning; there is so much more.
- Today, we focus on the fresh start and new life that Jesus offers us.

THE KEY TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

The key to the Christian life is Jesus.

- We often replace Jesus with other things:
 - The church
 - Hard work or service projects
 - Moral codes and to-do lists
 - Seeking emotional experiences
- All of these things may be good in their proper place, but they cannot be a substitute for what Jesus offers us.
- Jesus is the hub of the wheel of life. Everything in the wheel depends on him, his presence, and power.

Colossians 3:3 (CSB) ... your life is hidden with Christ in God.

JOINED TO JESUS

The power of Christ's "work" - his life, death, resurrection, and ascension - is in us and available to us in every situation.

- It is an invisible, unstoppable spiritual energy for living a new life.
- We become more like Jesus (Romans 8:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:10).
- We are joined to Jesus by faith, but we have to decide to apply his powerful person and work in practical ways to our lives.

HOW TO APPLY CHRIST'S POWERFUL WORK

1. THE POWER OF THE CRUCIFIXION

- When Jesus died on the cross, we died with him.
- We're free from the power and control of our sinful nature.

Romans 6:6 (NLT) We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

- We're not stuck in old habits - unless we choose to be.

2. THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

- When Jesus rose from the dead, we rose with him.
- The resurrection gives us the power to live a new life for God.

Romans 6:4 (NLT) And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

- We have resurrection power to do whatever God calls us to do. I can, not I can't.

Ephesians 4:24 (NLT) Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

3. THE POWER OF THE ASCENSION

- When Jesus ascended, we ascended with him.

Ephesians 1:22 (CSB) God the Father subjected everything under Christ's feet and appointed him as head over everything for the church... Ephesians 2:6 (CSB) God also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus...

- His ascension provides daily freedom from Satan's control.

James 4:7 (CSB) ... submit to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

4. THE POWER OF PENTECOST

- The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ and comes to live in us.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (CSB) Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God?

- The Holy Spirit is our daily power for godly living and effective service.

NOT BY MIGHT, NOT BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT

The key to Christian living is being joined to Jesus and participating in his saving, life-changing work.

- Getting to godly is impossible in our own strength (Zechariah 4:6).
- What is one practical step the Holy Spirit is leading you to take today?
 - To live free from a specific sinful habit?
 - To develop a new godly behavior?
 - To reject the devil's interference and temptations?
 - To say yes to an invitation to join a ministry and serve?

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me ...

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's April 12th teaching and study guide.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

1. The sermon said we often replace Jesus with church activity, hard work, moral rules, or emotional experiences. Which of those are you most tempted to make "the hub," and how does that show up in your life?
2. What usually keeps you from "cooperating" with Jesus' power—ignorance, fear, comfort, shame, doubt, or something else? Please explain.
3. When you hear "we are no longer slaves to sin," what lies about your old self do you still tend to believe? What is one specific old habit, pattern, or way of thinking where you sense Jesus saying, "Throw that off—this doesn't own you anymore"?
4. Where have you said, "I just can't change" or "that's just how I am," that might actually be an area to trust resurrection power instead?
5. What is one ministry you sense the Lord calling you into that will require you to cooperate with the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life?

Prayer Focus

- Our 247 prayer: "Lord, please add daily to the Cornerstone those who are being saved."