

Given Everything | Easter Sunday 2026

Contrary to popular expectations, Easter is the biggest day and biggest deal in the lives of Jesus followers and the church! Now, I'm not sure whether you're feeling that today, because sometimes we don't even reflect that in the church, compared to how we have an entire *season* dedicated to Christmas. Or, around here, how we often have *extra* one-church events or meals during our "ministry launch" seasons. However, the reality is that, without Easter, none of that stuff would matter or even exist! In fact, one biblical scholar suggests that, because of the stand-alone significance of Easter, churches should serve champagne on Easter Sunday mornings! Or better yet, shake the bottles, pop the corks, and get the bubbly flowing the night before as if it was New Years! Cause Easter is that big of a deal!

But if that hasn't always been our instinct, why not? And what is it about Easter that makes it such a big deal? Makes it ***Blue Jays locker room ski-goggles-and-champagne*** celebration worthy?!

In the time leading up to the life of Jesus, there was a long-standing ancient Jewish hope that one day God would bring to life – or *resurrect* – all of humanity and pour out his Spirit in a new way that would renew and restore the world. That *resurrection* and *Spirit* would be the two world-changing markers of the coming of God's kingdom in the world – *one day*. Not *today*, but *one day*. *One day* far in the future. *One day* a long way from now and from the realities of life *today*. And I wonder how many of us come into Easter Sunday feeling similar? That no matter where we find ourselves on the spectrum of personal belief, we have this sense that, while Easter is in fact a celebration, it's a celebration that really only brings hope for *one day*. That *one day* things might change. That maybe *one day* we could be made new. Or perhaps most common, that at best, Easter might offer a "ticket to a better place" *one day*. So, might as well save the champagne for *one day*...

But friends, that's where I think we might be wrong about keeping the champagne on the shelves at Easter. Because according to Jesus' first followers – who, up until the very first Easter believed all of that was saved for *one day* – experienced something so shocking and so surprising in Jesus, it not only changed their beliefs about *one day*, it changed absolutely everything in their lives from *that day* on! Listen to how one of Jesus' closest friends and followers, Peter, described the surprising impact of Easter – an event that created such a stir and celebration he had to reassure onlookers that *they* hadn't had too much champagne!

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages. Then Peter stood up and addressed the crowd:

Listen carefully! Make no mistake about this. These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet: 'In the last days,' God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.'

God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. And the Father gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.

Acts 2:4, 14-17, 32-33

From “last days” to “today”, what Peter and the early followers of Jesus experienced through Jesus' resurrection was that Jesus had now made his Holy Spirit available in a way that started to change their lives in intoxicating ways. That through their witnessing of Jesus being raised to life, they saw that Jesus alone held the power to overcome sin and death – which only re-assured their hopes for *one day* – *AND* though, that through the pouring out of his Spirit they began to see that a new and restored life was possible *today*, not just *one day*.

And friends, I wonder how many of us have come into Easter wishing that could be true in our lives? That we long for new life *today*, not just the hope an *after-life one day*? That we wish we could actually grow and change to become more of the people we long to be, and that in our lives, relationships, or purpose and calling in the world, we could experience the kind of champagne-worthy “resurrection” and renewal that the Easter story is all about?

Well, if that's you today, according to Peter, that's now exactly what's possible. Later on, after the reality of Jesus' resurrection and the pouring out of his Spirit began settling in, listen to what Peter wrote to people – like us! – who were starting to put their faith in Jesus:

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

2 Peter 1:3

When you stop and think about it, this is quite a profound statement that sends a very different message than Easter just being about a hope or celebration for *one day* somewhere else. As Peter says, God “has given us *everything we need* for living” – meaning, given *already* (past tense) for living *right now* (present tense). And there's three remarkable Easter realities to Peter's declaration. The first is that God has done this by God's “***divine power***”, which refers to any and all of the strength, might, power, and energy you could imagine being contained in or held by the God of the universe. The same power that raised Jesus from death! And it's out of and by this power that God has given us everything we need!

The apostle Paul described God's *divine power* this way, in **Ephesians 1:19-20**:

I pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

Friends, this is the champagne-worthy “divine power” God has poured on us at Easter!

Then the second remarkable thing Peter says is that this power has given us everything we need for living a “***godly life***”. Now the phrase “godly life” may sound a bit cheesy or churchy depending on how you hear it. But what Peter was referring to was the kind of life we all dream of. The life we hope would be available *one day*. A life infused with the goodness and love of God, capable of living and enjoying life as it's meant to be lived!

In fact, one translation of this verse describes it as *“living the truly good life.”* Or what Jesus called **“life to the full.”** And what the apostle Paul described as a life marked by the “fruit of God’s spirit” – a life of *love, joy, peace, and patience*. And couldn’t we all use a little more of that life? Well, pop the champagne, cause that’s the life Easter makes possible!

Then third, Peter says that we can receive and come to know this life by means of Jesus’ marvelous **“glory and excellence.”** Once again, these can come off as empty sounding, Bible-y words at first blush. But in the context of the Easter story, they were Peter’s way of referring to Jesus’ *death and resurrection*. That on the cross, Jesus showed us the *excellence* of his love. And by his resurrection, Jesus’ revealed the *glory* of new life. In fact, Jesus said it this way on the first Easter Sunday to two grieving travellers who thought their *one-day* hopes were dashed when Jesus died. But Jesus said, **“Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?”** That it was through the self-sacrificing perfect love of Jesus’ death that brought the glory of his resurrection. And in this light, the eyes of those hopeless travellers were opened to recognize the risen Jesus, and as a result, their lives were forever changed as they came to know and receive everything they needed!

Friends, this is the champagne-worthy good news of Easter! Not *just* that Jesus was raised from the dead. And not *just* the possibility of hope for *one day*. But because of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we have now been given *everything we need* to live the lives we are made to live in the here and now – *today* – all by God’s Spirit and divine power!

So, I want to ask you today, where are you most longing for the “good life”? And where do you need renewal or restoration? What part of your life, or your relationships, or your character, or your sense of meaning is feeling empty or powerless? And how could we open ourselves up to receiving everything we need from God through Jesus’ resurrection today?

Peter finishes his Easter encouragements in this passage by saying (**2 Peter 1:5-7**):

In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God's promises. Add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

Peter says that when we open ourselves to the *today* good news of Easter, recognizing the champagne-worthy celebration of Jesus' resurrection and the life-changing outpouring of his Spirit, then faith becomes more than just hopes or beliefs, but is about making every effort to add goodness, self-control, perseverance, and love to our lives. That it becomes about adding more and more features of "the good life" – the "*God-life*" – to our lives here and now. That when we recognize what God has done through Jesus at Easter and respond in faith, we begin to see our lives forever changed, starting today, having been given everything we need to grow and be changed into people and communities of goodness, peace, and love.

And friends, while that all makes popping the champagne worthwhile on Easter, the reality is that this good news isn't just reserved for *one day* a year. That ever since *that day* that God raised Jesus from the dead and poured out his Spirit on those who put their faith in him, *every single day* since now has the power and potential to be *the day* that we receive everything we need from the God who made us. And that's what we're about together as a community. Seeking to be a community of people living by Jesus' *divine power*, growing in the *good life* of goodness, perseverance, and *love*. And if you long to be a part of that, Jesus is inviting you to put your trust in him today and receive everything you need.

So, may we know the champagne-worthy big deal, good news, and celebration of Easter – that Jesus has, in fact, defeated death to give us hope for *one day*! **AND**, that through Jesus' resurrection God has poured out the divine power of his Spirit to give us everything we need **TODAY** to become people of hope, goodness, and love! Cheers!