

Signs of Life

Wherever there is life, there are signs that evidence it.

Acts 1:3, When Jesus rose from the dead He gave proof of life.

John 5:24 Christians have signs of life as well.

1. Jesus leaves death behind

Matthew 28:5-6 Jesus leaves the tomb (place of death) behind.

“Lay” (imperfect tense) something Jesus did, but no longer does.

John 20:26 Jesus leaves behind the burial clothes behind.

Similarly, Christians leave the sins of the past behind them.

Ephesians 2:1 “You were dead...in sins.”

Ephesians 2:2-3 Symptoms of spiritual death.

2 Cor 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, old things are passing away.

“Passing away” = something disappearing, going away from you.

The living don't remain in places of death doing dead things.

Ephesians 2:2 Describes sin as ways in which we “once walked.”

When God cleanses you, you want to remain clean.

Illus: Showering after a week of camping

2. Jesus gathers with His spiritual family

Jesus demonstrated that He had been changed (risen with new life) before He returned to the Father.

Acts 1:3 “He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.”

Secular historians also record Jesus' resurrection (Josephus):

Antiquities, Book 18, Section 63, “About this time lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was the achiever of extraordinary deeds and was a teacher of those who accept the truth gladly....He was the Messiah. When he was indicted by the principal men among us and Pilate condemned him to be crucified, those who had come to love him originally did not cease to do so; for he appeared to them on the third day restored to life, as the prophets of the Deity had foretold.”

1 Cor. 15:3-6 Jesus showed Himself alive to hundreds of people

Notice: As alive, it is instinctive of Christ to show gather with Christians.

Believers (who are alive) instinctively gather with other believers:

Acts 2:41-42 The early church devoted themselves to meeting together as a church to study, pray, fellowship and worship.

“Devoted” (Imperfect tense/middle voice).

Imperfect: Something done repeatedly, continuously.

Middle voice: Motivation to do this came internally.

If we do not desire to gather with other believers, that is a symptom of unbelief.

Heb. 10:24-25, We do not neglect meeting as “some” do.

Heb. 10:26-27 “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment.”

Illus: Conventions: We are drawn to gather with people like us.

3. Jesus is visibly changed

Jesus invites people to touch and view Him to prove His life.

Luke 24:39-40, “See my hands and my feet...Touch me, and see.”

Jesus sought out and consumed food:

Luke 24:41-43, (of the fish) “He took it and ate before them.”

True believers also evidence a change in life:

John 3:20-21, As alive, we want to demonstrate that life around other believers.

1 Peter 2:2 We long for spiritual food (Bible) like a newborn baby.

Illus: Grandson growing up

Q: Do you consider yourself a Christian?

Q: How has Jesus radically changed your life?

Unchanged = unconverted

Romans 3:23, We all sin, and fall short of perfection (God's glory)

2 Cor 5:21 We all need Jesus' death to pay for our sins. He offers us His righteousness, which is credited to our account.

Romans 10:9 We confess Jesus as Lord and believe the gospel

Romans 5:9 Jesus saved us from the wrath of God.

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”