



## Week Eight Prayer Focus – Jesus’ Resurrection Life and Power – The Father’s Glory!

Please ask the Father to bring Belmont to the place where we know Jesus is the only One who can build Belmont and move us forward in resurrection life and power; pray that we would not be prevented from coming into the fullness Jesus desires for us because of fear, mourning or unbelief; pray that each member of Belmont wakes up and is mobilized on Jesus’ mission for the Father’s glory.

### Jesus’ Resurrection and Life, Our Resurrection and Our Life

I heard a preacher retelling the testimony of an African man who has raised dozens of people from the dead, just as he had been raised in the power of Jesus’ Name. He said, “Being raised from the dead changed my life!” Shared with a glint of obvious humor, the statement is also deeply profound and should be the testimony of all whose lives are hidden in Jesus our Messiah. For the Bible tells us that Jesus’ resurrection is our resurrection: we were crucified with Him and raised to a new life in Him. Everything old is just finished and gone; in Him all things are made new. Once death, the punishment for our sins, is finished, what emerges is a new creation free from sin and death, seated in heaven with Messiah! As we believe, the same power that raised Jesus – and us – from the dead is operational in our lives, and on our behalf, to continually transform us and turn the world upside down!

In this season of “Just Pray,” there is a prophetic word for our Belmont Church family that this story calls to mind. A synagogue leader comes to Jesus with a desperate, hopeless situation – hopeless except for a last chance plea to the miracle-working Teacher. Begging on his knees at Jesus’ feet, he pleads, “My little daughter is about to die! Please come lay your hands on her so she will get well and live!” On the way, word comes that she has died, but Jesus ignores the report and says, “Don’t give in to fear, only keep on believing!” Hopeless mourning and mocking unbelief meet Jesus at the point of breakthrough, but He shuts them out. With perfect faith in His own power and loving intention to restore the little girl, Jesus speaks resurrection life into her: “Little girl, get up!” She gets up and starts walking around! At twelve years old, her whole life ahead of her is restored, *plus* the underlying sickness that caused her untimely death is completely healed! Jesus changes her life!

The prophetic picture for Belmont family in this story is, don’t allow anyone to call Belmont dead! But she *is* asleep and must wake up now, get up, start moving, and eat! There is more for us as those whose lives have been radically touched and transformed by the One who boldly names Himself “The Resurrection and The Life!” However, on the way to new supernatural life and power are the enemies that look reasonable, if we rely on human wisdom and physical sight. The Lord Jesus’ declaration can only be received by choosing to trust what is only perceived through spiritual eyes and ears. Before resurrection life and power come, Jesus speaks to the fear inside and calls for a choice to continue trusting. Then He definitively shuts out the hopelessness and mourning, and the mocking and unbelief, that would distract from focus on Him and cause this family to miss the miracle breakthrough and turnaround that only Jesus can bring – if we will simply trust Him.

### *Conversation Starters with Jesus*

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what it would look like for Jesus to come into Belmont, take us by the hand, wake us up, and heal us so every member is mobilized to fulfill their God-given purpose.

How would our behavior change if we had Jesus' own perfect faith in His own power and loving intention to restore Belmont?

Ask Jesus whether you are allowing hopelessness, mourning, or fear or unbelief to hold you back from simply trusting Jesus, and making way for Him to come to release His miracle resurrection life and healing power?

### **The Father's Glory – Our Fruit-Producing Prayers**

In John 20:19-23, we see the Lord Jesus' ministry to bring peace and purpose to His followers. This happens as He comes into the middle of their fears, speaks peace, shows them the wounds of His suffering, yet He is very much alive from the dead! Jesus' commission comes, sending them as He was sent by His Father, with the promise of new life, power and authority in the Holy Spirit. However, there is something missing: Thomas, one of the twelve in His close circle was not with them. Having missed this intimate revelation of Jesus and the reality of His presence overruling everything about their natural circumstances, Thomas is left stuck in unbelief. So, the Lord Jesus comes a second time, specifically to give Thomas exactly what he has asked in order to move out of his refusal to believe. The result, as Thomas touches the reality of Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection, is peace, unshakable faith, and the revelation that Jesus is in fact Lord and God.

The Lord Jesus is generously ready to come to meet anyone where there are, to overcome their fears and unbelief, and to grant them the grace and power to move into the future with total trust in His person and power. It is not too late, wherever we are in our journey with Him to turn, receive fresh revelation of Jesus, His cross, and His mission, and begin again to run after Him in vibrant faith. Imagine how little Jesus' followers understood of the new resurrection life and power He was calling them to embrace? They were to become followers who do all Jesus taught them, and go out in Jesus' name to save, pastor, train and mobilize lost ones to do the same after them – for the Father's glory. If you are just now hearing the call to "Just Prayer" – or if you are just now feeling new urgency to give yourself to more concerted prayer – it is not too late. Don't miss out! And there is a promise about prayer the Lord Jesus made on His way to the cross: "If you remain united with me, and my words with you, then **ask whatever you want**, and it will happen for you. This is how my Father is glorified – in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be my disciples!" Stunningly, there is a connection between our prayers and producing fruit that brings the Father glory.

### ***Conversation Starters with Jesus***

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you the unique aspect of the Father's glory that you and only you carry, and how your prayers bring Him glory.

Ask the Father how does Belmont need to change our activities, or rearrange our priorities, in order to see more lost people saved?

In what ways should you follow the Holy Spirit to be mobilized for the glory of God in this season?

Ask the Father to give you a fresh revelation of Jesus, His cross and His mission.