



river west church

Power, Joy and a New Life

Easter Sunday

Pastor Guy Gray

3.31.2013

We have so much to celebrate today! Easter Sunday is the day we gather to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus our Savior. The good news of the Christian faith is that after Christ died on the cross in our place and for our sin, He did not stay dead. Death could not hold Him! God raised Him in power, and amazing things are now available to those who would believe in Jesus.

Here's how Peter said it to a crowd that had gathered around the first Christians.

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”

Acts 2:32 & 33

So what did the crowds see and hear? What had drawn them to this group of Christians that day? The first thing they saw was a kind of spiritual power that had never been witnessed before. Miracles were happening. Lives were being transformed. There was a buzz in the city of Jerusalem and everyone was talking about it. But more than just power, there was joy. These Christians had an inexplicable joy about them, and others could see it.

When the crowds gathered for an explanation, Peter told them about the resurrection. God had raised Jesus to life and as the risen and ruling Lord, Jesus had poured out His Spirit on us. This is what you see and hear. But here's the most amazing part of the story. At that very moment three thousand people put their faith in Jesus Christ! They joined the celebration. Their lives were transformed and they became new people with new spiritual life.

This morning we are going to celebrate. We are going to sing and worship. If you are a guest or a visitor we want to welcome you with all of the warmth of Jesus Himself. And our greatest hope is that you will witness power, joy and the new life that is available in Jesus.

If God touches your heart in some way today, let us know about it. Stay and talk to a Pastor, or stop by our Connect Table in the foyer. Better yet, come back next week to hear more. You are welcome here.

Pastor Adam