

Life

John 20:1-10, 19-23

“(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to their homes,” —John 20:9-10

To the Christian, Jesus is Life.

- The Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
- The resurrection and the life (John 11:25)

Life requires a beginning.

1. **Birth**—Physical Birth

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. —Genesis 2:7

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. —Colossians 1:15-16

Easter morning the disciples were concerned only with natural, physical life.

They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead. —John 20:9

There is something more to life. The Christian life requires a birth.

2. **New** Birth—Spiritual Birth

And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." —John 20:22

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." —John 3:3

Jesus' baptism **models** the new birth.

As soon as Jesus was baptized...heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. —Matthew 3:16-17

After Jesus' Baptism

<u>Physical life continued</u>	<u>Spiritual life dominated</u>
Continued to live in a human body Mary remained His mother Still known as the carpenter's son	Holy Spirit descended Known as Son of God Controlling purpose was salvation plan

Through Jesus Christ, Christians:

- Are delivered from the **penalty** of sin,
- Are being delivered from the **power** of sin,
- Will be delivered from the **presence** of sin.

Delivered from the presence of sin requires a beginning.

3. Resurrection—Born again from the dead

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead... —Colossians 1:18

When our Lord rose from the dead, He rose to an absolutely new life, to a life He did not live before He was incarnate. He rose to a life that had never been before. —My Utmost, April 8

Beloved now we are children of God and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be....we know that when He appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see Him just as he is. —1 John 3:2

Physical Birth—**Past**, taken for granted.

Resurrection—Future **hope**, not ready now.

New Birth—**Present** reality of Jesus' resurrection life.