



## Power for a New Life

In John 20-21, I see people with struggles like mine, and I see the risen Jesus meet those needs...

### 1. For my loneliness He gives His \_\_\_\_\_

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, ‘Rabboni!’ (which means Teacher).” John 20:16*

*“He calls his own sheep **by name** and leads them out.” John 10:3*

Jesus’ message to the lonely: “\_\_\_\_\_”

*“...Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matt. 28:20*

### 2. For my fears He gives His \_\_\_\_\_

*“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear... Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” John 20:19*

*“Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you!...’” John 20:21*

*“A week later... Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you!’” John 20:26*

*“Jesus himself stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’” Luke 24:36*

Jesus’ message to the anxious: “\_\_\_\_\_”

### 3. For my doubts He gives His \_\_\_\_\_

*“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.’ Thomas said to him, ‘My Lord and my God!’” John 20:27,28*

Jesus’ message to the doubting: “\_\_\_\_\_”

*“Taste and see that the LORD is good!” Ps. 34:8*

### 4. For my failures He gives His \_\_\_\_\_

*“The third time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ He said, ‘Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, ‘Feed my sheep.’” John 21:17*

Jesus’ message to the guilty: “\_\_\_\_\_”

*“I pray that you’ll begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help **those who believe Him**. It’s the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead!” Eph. 1:19-20 LB*

## Daily Meditations

Brief daily readings and questions to stimulate thinking on today’s topic.

**This week’s memory verse:** *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24*

### Monday

Read John 20:10-18. In the weekend services, you heard of Mary Magdalene’s background: A loner, a woman with a past, a woman of the streets. It may sound funny to ask, but do you find you relate to her in any way?

What do you find significant about Jesus’ response to her?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus knows you and calls you *by name*?

Today pray to God with this truth in mind: He knows you by name, better than you know yourself! Thank Him for this!

### Tuesday

Read John 20:19-23. Why were the disciples afraid?

Why do you suppose the doors were locked?

Does the locked door deter Jesus?

In what ways does Jesus glide through locked doors in our world today?

What fears do you struggle with:

\_\_\_ The future      \_\_\_ War/terrorism      \_\_\_ Violence in our cities  
\_\_\_ My own sin      \_\_\_ My children's future      \_\_\_ Death/illness  
\_\_\_ The economy      \_\_\_ Job fears      \_\_\_ Financial fears  
\_\_\_ Accidents      \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What would Jesus say to you about your fears today? (Read Romans 8:38-39 for more insight!)

*Bring each of your fears specifically to God right now in prayer. Ask to receive His peace!*

### Wednesday

Read John 20:24-29 and Luke 24:38-48. We all struggle with doubt at times; perhaps not doubt that Jesus rose from the dead, but doubt that He will be good to you, or that He can make a difference right now in your life. In what ways can you relate to Thomas?

What did you learn about Jesus' response to doubt in these verses?

How does this help you in your struggle with doubt?

Honestly evaluate your doubts right now. What evidence has God given you that you sometimes choose to ignore?

Someone once said the evidence for the resurrection falls into five categories:

1. The evidence of the empty tomb
2. The evidence of eyewitness accounts
3. The evidence of fulfilled prophecies
4. The evidence of the resurrection's impact
5. The evidence of changed lives!

"Indeed, taking all the evidence together, it's not too much to say there is no historic incident better or more variously supported than the resurrection of Christ. Nothing but the antecedent assumption that it must be false could have suggested the idea of deficiency in the proof of it."

-Canon Westcott, Cambridge University

*Thank God that He isn't threatened by your doubts! Thank Him for the truth of His word. Ask Him to help you see the evidence He puts around you to help you overcome your doubts.*

### Thursday

Read John 21:1-17. Earlier, what did Peter do when Jesus was on trial?

How many times did he do this?

How many times did Jesus reinstate Peter?

What do you think is significant about this?

What can you learn from this story about Christ's attitude toward you after you've failed?

How is this different from the way we might expect God to act toward us after our failures?

*Thank God today for His grace! Ask Him to forgive you and reinstate you if you have failed Him!*

### Friday

Read John 11:21-27. What do you say to Jesus' question: "Do you believe this?"

What difference has your faith in the resurrected Christ made in your life?

What evidences have you found helpful in showing friends that Christ is alive today?

*Thank God today specifically for the hope of the resurrection-- be specific about what it means to you! If you have never done it before, say "yes" to Christ's question in this passage: "Do you believe this?"*

### Saturday

Today, just meditate on God's goodness. Spend time quietly with the risen, living Christ! Please pray for the weekend services. Thanks!