

## *The Conviction of Faith*

**Job 19:23-27   Phil. 1:20-26   John 5:24-29**

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**The most important event in Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead!** The resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith, and it is what separates Christianity from all other world religions.

Every “religion” has a dead ‘prophet’ ;  
**ONLY CHRISTIANITY** has a *risen & Living Savior!*

In the New Testament, every Sunday is a continuation of Easter Sunday. Sunday worship is a **continual celebration** of the Easter victory as we gather as God’s baptized people around the risen Savior’s Word and sacrament. We worship the risen Savior because He has freely given us **life and forgiveness and all the blessings of eternal salvation!** We were **baptized** in His Name, and we **worship** in His Name!

And then, when we leave worship, the *risen Savior* blesses us, and goes with us to empower us with **assurance** and **conviction** in our daily lives!

**Assurance is confidence and peace.** We have the assurance that we belong to God; we have the confidence that our sins no longer separate us from God; we have peace with God as we live each day in faith. **We don’t live with guilt. We don’t live in fear. We don’t live with doubt.** We have absolute assurance, confidence and peace that our sins are **forgiven** and that we **belong** to God because of the death and resurrection of the Son of God.

The Gospel that you hear in worship *strengthens your assurance:*

- ‡ The **Invocation** reminds you that you belong to God, and that He has put His Name on you in Holy Baptism --- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- ‡ The **Absolution** is the “official decree” that publicly proclaims that your sins are forgiven
- ‡ The **Word of God** in the scripture lessons, hymns, and sermon teaches who you are in Christ and how you live in His kingdom

- † The **Sacrament of Holy Communion** unites you to the crucified and risen Savior as He gives you His Body and Blood in bread and wine for the forgiveness of your sins!

The Gospel that you hear in worship *strengthens your assurance*:

**Because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
you live each day with ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE  
of God's love, grace and mercy.**

*We have confidence and peace  
through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!*

That assurance of God's love, grace and mercy leads you to live your life with **courage and conviction**.

There is a **boldness** in faith that comes from the  
*resurrection of Jesus from the dead!*

This **courage and conviction** is highlighted in the Old Testament scripture lesson from the Book of Job today.

“Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll, 24 that they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever! 25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me! JOB 19:23-27

Now look at how many words of **conviction** Job used in that passage:

“Oh, that my words were **recorded**, that they were **written on a scroll**, 24 that they were **inscribed with an iron tool on lead**, or **engraved in rock forever**! 25 I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. 26 And **after my skin has been destroyed**, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 I myself will see him with **my own eyes—I, and not another**. How my heart yearns within me! JOB 19:23-27

For Job, his conviction was in the resurrection of the Dead on the Last Day. Job was **absolutely confident** that He would see His Redeemer, even after his skin was destroyed in death!

**Six times** he emphasizes that he himself will see Christ; He is so confident that he wants His words **chiseled on lead** and **engraved on stone** for all to see! This is Job's **bold conviction** in the resurrection of the dead on the last day!

Like Job, God gives you a **courage and conviction** that comes from faith in Christ and His resurrection! With Job, we say with conviction: *I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes—I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!* Like Job, we will see the risen Jesus even after we die!

**But until then,  
we live bold and courageous lives of conviction!**

**Do you have *courage and conviction* in your faith?** Faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead gives you **courage and conviction!** It is a work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Sacraments!

Speaking of ***courage and conviction***, **TODAY IS CONFIRMATION SUNDAY.** This afternoon, **24 our of youth** will stand before God, their families, and the world to boldly confess their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. They have been in training for 4 years --- learning the Old Testament, New Testament and Luther's Small Catechism. They have learned about the 10 Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. They have learned to confess their sins and believe the Words of Absolution. They have learned about the resurrection of Jesus Christ as the foundation of everything they believe. The resurrection gives our confirmands ***courage and conviction*** to publically confess their faith and even die rather than renounce Christ!

***Most of you were confirmed.***

Do you still have the ***confidence, courage and conviction*** that you had on your Confirmation Sunday?

Are you even more ***bold and courageous*** than you were as a child? Do you stand firm in the faith, live in love, and tell others about the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Or was Confirmation Sunday the “finish line” for you because for some reason you did not realize that it was actually the “starting line”? Or did you or someone else torpedo your faith by letting you think it was Graduation Sunday rather than Confirmation Sunday?

**Confidence, courage and conviction** comes from the resurrection Of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Since its Confirmation Sunday, let’s review the **bold and courageous** promises of Confirmation Sunday; how do you honestly answer these questions today?

### CONFIRMATION VOWS

- P: Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?
- C: I do.**
- P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?
- C: I do.**
- P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?
- C: I do so intend with the help of God.**
- P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God’s Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?
- C: I do so intend by the grace of God.**

*Those are some hefty promises, aren’t they?* The only way that you can make those promises to God is by His grace and His Spirit at work within you.

**Conviction is the power  
of the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
at work within you!**

The resurrection of Jesus Christ creates **assurance** and **conviction**! The resurrection gives you **courage and boldness** for daily living! Today, be renewed in your **bold and courageous** Christian life that you have because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Live your Christian faith and life with  
**deep assurance** and **bold conviction!**

Amen!