

Starfish Christians  
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When the earliest fishermen found a thriving population of starfish munching big holes in the mussel, clam, and oyster beds they were harvesting, they simply hacked up the greedy little starfish into bits and tossed them back into the sea.

Big mistake. Before they new it, these early fishermen were up to their hips in the slow-moving little suckers. One of the first lessons learned in early aquaculture was “Don’t cut up the starfish!”

Whack one starfish in two and what do you get? Two starfish! Hack one starfish into five chunks and you get five starfish. All a starfish needs to regenerate a whole new creature is one arm and a smidgen of the central disk of its body. A starfish can “re-member” itself. It can form a completely new, whole starfish out of a small start.]

Resurrection Christians are like starfish. It’s after Easter, but as long as we take with us the defining miracle of an empty tomb, we can “re-member” the body of Christ anywhere, anytime, in every age, no matter how dismembered they may become. The new incarnations of Christ’s body might not have perfect symmetry. They might need to work on coordinating all of their new parts. But as long as the “re-membering” of the dismembered continues, the body will keep growing.

Jesus’ resurrection triumph over death was once-and-for-all, but the role of the witnesses continues over and over again. As the Easter morning angelic visitors instructed the empty tomb witnesses, the first work of resurrection faith is to remember. Remember Christ’s words. Remember Christ’s stories. Remember Christ’s signs. Remember Christ’s promises. It is this remembering that will “re-member” each new generation to the empty tomb and the miracle of resurrection. It is this remembering that will “re-member” the gospel within the heart of every disciple.

Those who have seen the empty tomb must spend their lives practicing resurrection. Practicing resurrection means re-telling the story of the Good Friday sacrifice and the Easter morning miracle again and again throughout our entire life.

Even when recounting the resurrection seems to bring no real results, we are still called to practice and to keep practicing. We are still called to witness and keep witnessing to the world. We are called to continuously work resurrection faith into every corner of our lives. We serve not just a risen Savior. We serve a rising Savior. More than that, we serve a continually rising Savior who enables all who embrace resurrection to rise to every occasion. Jesus defeats death daily. His resurrection is a continual miracle replayed and rewound for every generation, for every situation, and for everyone who reaches out in the darkness in search of the light and for every dis-membered person who needs re-membering.

Thanks be to God who can take little and make much!

