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# Daily Devotional - Tuesday, April 22, 2025 - Resurrection Courage

APRIL 22ND 2025 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Sometimes, the best way to reveal the flaw in another person's reasoning is to show how inconsistent it is. Often, these inconsistencies surface when we examine the difference between what people say and what they do.

This may help us understand the apostle's puzzling reference to baptism for the dead in verse 29. In this section, Paul is showing the Corinthians what is implied by what they say they believe. In verse 29, he shifts the focus on what they do. He does not necessarily endorse the kind of baptism mentioned here. Rather, his aim is to demonstrate how this practice assumed the reality of resurrection. Although the phrase "for the dead" is somewhat ambiguous, Paul appears to distance himself from such baptisms by describing them as something that others do. "Now if there is no resurrection, what will those do who are baptized for the dead?" he asks. "If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?" Whatever purpose the Corinthians thought such a rite might serve, it didn't make any sense if there was no such thing as

resurrection.

Paul appealed to his own example as evidence for the hope of resurrection. The certainty of life beyond this life gave Paul the courage to face death. The mention of “wild beasts in Ephesus” is probably figurative (v. 32). The threat to Paul in Ephesus did not come from animals in the arena but from human opponents. Sometime after Paul wrote these words, his ministry caused a riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:23–41). But such threats were not unusual. As Paul put it, “I face death every day” (v. 31). Even today, there are many places in the world where Christians face similar opposition. The assurance of bodily resurrection gives them the courage to face death no matter the cause.

## **Go Deeper**

What kind of fears do you struggle with today? How can the promise of resurrection help you to face them?

## **Pray with Us**

Father, we confess it's not always easy to overcome fear. But Paul's example shows us that the certainty of the resurrection gives courage to face all troubles, even death. Help us to be brave!

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