

We were given an Amaryllis at Christmas, which we planted and have been watching grow. So in total it has had 11 'flowers' bloom on it, but all at different times. Currently we have one head and 10 dead ones. I have also noticed that as you begin to see the first flowers of spring begin to bloom many do so through the debris from plants that had expired before.

This reminds me of Easter, where life and death seem to exist together, with the death of Jesus on the cross." But also that Jesus came back to life!" Easter couldn't be Easter without both events! The bible tells us that God loved us so much that Jesus didn't turn away from the cross, but allowed it so that we might receive forgiveness and enter into relationship with God again. But also rose from the dead, to demonstrate that death itself was now conquered. Jesus appeared many times to his disciples following his resurrection, in enclosed rooms, by the lake and to friends on the road.

According to the gospel of Luke, He approached two travelers heading to Emmaus 3 days after His crucifixion. Jesus walked with them; He ate dinner with them; He even gave them a lesson in Old Testament prophecy (24:15-27). This encounter showed the travelers that Jesus conquered the grave—He had risen from the dead. As a result the pair returned to Jerusalem and told the disciples, "The Lord is risen indeed!" (v.34). If Jesus had not come back to life, our faith as Christians would be pointless and we would still be under the penalty of our sin (1 Cor. 15:17). However, the Bible tells us that Jesus "was raised to life for our justification" (Rom. 4:25 Niv).

Historical evidence tell us about Jesus but the real Jesus is only found in our relationship with him. So having celebrated Easter, remembered the death and resurrection of Jesus, let us now celebrate knowing that Jesus is alive in us, and journey on with him.

Rev Rick