



Introduction: when faith stops being theory

The Christian faith does not arise from a beautiful idea, nor from an elevated philosophy, nor even from a set of moral rules. It is born from a fact: **Jesus Christ died... and rose again.**

And not only that: **He made Himself seen.**

For forty days, the risen Lord did not remain hidden in a distant glory. On the contrary, He sought out His own, went to meet them, spoke with them, ate with them, taught them, corrected them, and sent them.

The appearances of the Risen Christ are the bridge between the drama of Calvary and the mission of the Church. Without them, there would be no Christianity. Without them, the cross would be a failure. With them, death is defeated forever.

This article is not only to understand what happened...
it is to discover what is still happening today.

1. What does it mean that Christ “appeared”?

In theological language, the appearances of the Risen Christ are not mere subjective visions or interior experiences. They are **real encounters with a truly risen Christ**, glorious yet tangible.

He is not a ghost. He is not an emotional projection. He is not a memory.

He Himself makes it clear:

“Look at my hands and my feet: it is I myself. Touch me and see; a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” (Luke 24:39)

Here lies a key truth:

the resurrection is not only spiritual, it is bodily.



The same body that was crucified is the one that rises, but transformed, glorified, free from the limitations of time and space.

2. The appearances: a journey that reveals the heart of God

The appearances are not random. They have an order, a purpose, a profound message.

◆ To Mary Magdalene: when love recognizes first

The first encounter is deeply meaningful. He does not appear to the powerful, nor to the priests, nor to the learned... but to a woman who was weeping.

“Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ She turned and said to him, ‘Rabboni!’”
(John 20:16)

The Risen One reveals Himself in intimacy, in the personal.
God calls you by name.

◆ To the disciples on the road to Emmaus: when faith is rekindled on the journey

Two disciples walk in sadness, disappointed. Jesus approaches them, but they do not recognize Him.

He explains the Scriptures to them... and finally, in the breaking of the bread, their eyes are opened.

Here lies an immense pastoral key:

Christ is revealed in the Word and in the Eucharist.



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✦ To the apostles: when fear is transformed into mission

Locked away in fear, the disciples receive the visit of the Risen One:

| *“Peace be with you” (John 20:19)*

There are no reproaches. No condemnation.
There is peace... and a sending.

He shows them His wounds. He breathes on them. He gives them the Holy Spirit.

Here, the Church is born.

✦ To Thomas: when doubt becomes faith

The doubting apostle represents all of us.

| *“My Lord and my God” (John 20:28)*

Jesus does not reject honest doubt, but leads it to a deeper faith.
And He pronounces a beatitude that echoes through the centuries:

| *“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29)*

That is you.



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✦ To more than 500 brothers: when faith becomes public testimony

Saint Paul records this striking fact (1 Corinthians 15:6):
Christ appeared to more than five hundred people.

This is not a private experience. It is a historical fact with multiple witnesses.

✦ To Peter: when love repairs betrayal

After denying Him three times, Peter is given a new opportunity:

| *“Do you love me?” (John 21)*

Three times.

Christ does not humiliate. **He restores.**
He does not cancel. **He rehabilitates.**

And He entrusts His Church to him.

✦ The Ascension: when our mission begins

After forty days, Christ ascends into heaven, not to distance Himself... but to reign.

Before leaving, He gives a clear command:

| *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19)*



3. The number 40: it is not accidental

In the Bible, the number 40 always indicates **a time of preparation, purification, and mission**:

- 40 days of the flood
- 40 years in the desert
- 40 days of Christ's fasting

The appearances over 40 days are not an anecdotal detail.

They are **a pedagogical time of God** to form His disciples before sending them into the world.

4. Theological relevance: why this changes everything

The appearances of the Risen Christ uphold four pillars of the Christian faith:

1. They confirm the divinity of Christ

Only God has power over death.

2. They validate redemption

The cross was not defeat, but victory.

3. They found the Church

The apostles do not preach ideas, but what they **have seen**.

4. They anticipate our own resurrection

Christ is the "firstfruits" (1 Corinthians 15:20).
What happened in Him... will happen in us.



5. What do these appearances say to us today? (Practical application)

This is where everything comes alive.

✦ 1. Christ still comes out to meet you

You do not have to be perfect.

Mary was weeping. Thomas doubted. Peter had fallen.

And still, Christ went to them.

✦ 2. Faith is not blind... but it does not depend on seeing

We live in a culture obsessed with the visible.

But Jesus elevates faith:

To believe without seeing is not irrational.

It is to trust in a solid testimony... and in a real presence.

✦ 3. The Eucharist is the privileged place of encounter

As in Emmaus, today Christ makes Himself present in the breaking of the bread.

We do not see Him with the eyes of the body...

but He is truly present.

✦ 4. Your story is not over

Peter failed.

And he was chosen.



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You can return too.
Always.

✦ 5. You have a mission

You are not a spectator.
You are sent.

The Christian who has “seen” Christ with the eyes of faith... cannot remain silent.

6. A warning for our time

Today many reduce the resurrection to a symbol, a metaphor of hope.

But if Christ did not truly rise...

▮ *“Your faith is in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:17)*

Christianity is not built on metaphors.
It is built on a fact.

And that fact demands a response.

Conclusion: the Risen One seeks you today

The appearances of Jesus are not just an episode of the past.
They are a pattern of how God acts.

Christ continues:



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- calling you by name
- walking at your side
- showing you His wounds
- giving you His peace
- sending you

The question is not whether He appears...

The question is:

will you recognize Him?