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Resurrect Your Faith! **(Resurrection Sunday, 2026)**

Pastor Gene Giguere, April 5, 2026

Introduction

- 1) ‘Hi. My name is Gene. And I am a doubter. I’m in my 62nd year of doubting, and I feel like I’m getting better – but, honestly, I doubt it.’

I started a sermon like that once.

And I’m revisiting it because, folks, things have gotten worse! Especially in this age of AI and deep fakes; it’s hard to even believe your eyes! I think most of us are pretty skeptical these days – and that’s probably wise. It’s easy to get hoodwinked for sure.

Now, I have plenty of doubts, but doubting God is *not* one of them. In fact, through every change the Lord has brought me through, He’s been right there with me – and He’s *shown me* that He was with me.

I believe that Jesus is God, that He became a Man and that He died on the cross for us some 2000 years ago. And – have you heard this? – Jesus is very much alive! The rumors of His demise have been greatly exaggerated!

He came to give us life, and that He has – for those of us who know Him anyway. But sadly, that’s *not* the case for those who do not believe in Him and what He did for us.

That’s OK, maybe that will change for millions around the world this morning. People are still springing to life in every place and every day!

- 2) But one of the saddest and most troubling movements in our country today is called Christian Deconstructionism.

Christian Deconstructionism is a process where some who *claim* to have been believers, critically reexamine, dismantle, and often reject the beliefs and doctrines they grew up with.

They do this by replacing the authority that once belonged to the Word of God alone with some new ‘authority,’ – like ‘personal experience’ or ‘cultural preferences.’

More often than not, this leads to a departure from evangelical Christianity and a new career as a *YouTuber*.

In a nutshell, many who once claim to have believed in Jesus have simply lost their faith.

They’ve abandoned Jesus and the Christian faith and stepped back into the world of unbelief.

Now, there’s nothing new about that – all throughout human history men have turned their backs on the God who made them – often devising sophisticated philosophical reasons for doing so.

The devil loves to sow seeds of doubt – and there have always been plenty of people happy to eat those seeds and let them grow!

- 3) But I think now more than ever, Satan is coming hard and fast with his questions – sowing seeds of doubt as he does.

Hasn’t science disproven God?

Haven’t we figured out the answers to all of life’s important questions without God?

And, of course, there are the ‘*if there’s a God, why ...*’ questions!

And ‘if He’s there, what does He look like.’

Or ‘why does He do what He does?’

Or ‘why does He allow the things He allows.’

But a better question is ‘*if there’s a God, what does He expect of me?*’

Now these questions, on their face might seem impertinent, or rude, or even blasphemous.

But I don’t think they are.

In fact, I’m going to tell you something that you really need to understand: It’s OK to question.

Just so long as you’re honest about seeking the truth and not coming to the question with preconceived answers.

The truth is, God is NOT afraid of our questions.

He doesn’t condemn us for asking them. God wants us to have faith – there’s no question about that – but not *blind* faith. He wants us to have a *reasoned* faith.

In one place He says, “Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord (**Isaiah 1:18a**). And the ‘reasoning together’ He’s describing there has to do with *the state of our soul*.

4) There are lots of things that cause people to doubt.

And, believe me, I’ve heard them all.

If there’s a God in heaven, why are people starving on our planet.

If there’s a God in heaven, why do bad things happen to good people.

For that matter, why do *good* things happen to *bad* people!

Why do the wicked prosper?

Why would God allow an Adolf Hitler or a Joseph Stalin to even be born?

Why do some people die so young?

Why does God allow some people to become the victims of others?

If there's a God in heaven, why do Christians get cancer?

If there's a God in heaven, why do good people sometimes die prolonged, painful deaths?

If there's a God in heaven, why doesn't He stop the rapists from raping and the murderers from murdering?

If there's a God in heaven, why doesn't He reveal Himself to us in the flesh [HE DID!]?

Oh, and what about the dinosaurs?

- 5) Now, it may surprise you to learn that the Bible has answers to most of these questions – and it gives us enough information about God to reason through the ones it doesn't answer.

That is, *if our hearts are open* to hear the answers.

Many today have closed their hearts to God altogether and so the answers continue to allude them.

For instance, one of the most basic laws of science is the Law of Biogenesis, which claims that *life arises only from pre-existing life*. Living things NEVER come from dead things, NEVER. So where did the first living thing come from?

You see, friends, *science hasn't disproven the existence of God; it has proven that His existence is necessary!*

Now that's *Science 101*, but there are way more complex questions than trying to figure out where the universe came from!

- 6) For instance: *human beings*. Have you ever met one of these?

Now I speak with humans all the time in my professional line of work and I can tell you from experience it's always a coin toss.

If you've ever been in a relationship with another human being – romantic, familial or friendship – you know it's, well, *complicated*.

Thousands of books have been written just to try and explain the differences between men and woman – the most basic biological distinction of our species (and even that has very recently come under question).

So, we have books like *Men are From Mars, Woman are from Venus*. I read that book and many others like it and guess what? After 33 years of careful research observing at very close proximity a *single patient* who happens to live in my very house, I can't even begin to figure out *my wife!* And *we* belong to the *same generation!*

VERY complex, that *other* gender – possibly an entirely different species from human – but I'm not a scientist.

7) And as if that's not complicated enough, there's this thing called *love*.

L'amour! Je 'taime! Ah, my flower!

Human attraction. Has anybody figured that out?

Ever see a lovely woman walking alongside a man with a Cro-Magnon forehead, high Neanderthal cheekbones, knuckles dragging on the ground and wonder, 'What's going on *with that?*'

Why is a woman attracted to the kind of man she is, or a man attracted to the kind of woman he is? Science has *no clue*. And, if Science can't account for *attraction*, it certainly can't account for *love!* Yet, we all know *this* experience. There is something about being in love that creates alternating occurrences of euphoria and pain in their most extreme forms – and we can't get enough of it.

It is one of the most wonderful, awful, wonderfully-awful things that can possibly happen to a person! There's no greater joy than falling in love – it's all *zippity-doo-dah* and animated birds flying around the head. But then, there's no greater searing pain than that of being hurt by someone you love. None.

This is one of the most fundamental aspects of what it means to be human and, you know what? Nobody, I mean *nobody*, can understand how or why it happens.

Did our feelings of love and the desire for friendship also somehow *evolve* from that first lifeless molecule that miraculously (without a god, mind you) sprang to life?

After a while, it all just starts to sound a little silly, doesn't it?

Isaac Newton, the most important scientist who ever lived, once wrote: "In the absence of any other proof, the thumb alone would convince me of God's existence."

At some point, it's easier to believe that there's a God who actually loves us, made us in His own image, and has a purpose for our lives.

So, you know what makes sense to me? That the One who made us said He made us in His own image. And His Word tells us that "God is love" – not 'has' love, "IS love." And that, friends, tells us what science never can. It tells us *where love comes from*. And God has also told us what love really looks like.

God's Plea

- 1) Let me show you what I mean. In the Bible, God chose a special people through which His message would be declared to the world: *Israel*. And they were, according to the Bible's own testimony, a stubborn and stiff-necked people – disobedient, insolent, grumbling, unappreciative of all that God had done for them.

We have their stories in the Old Testament as examples for us. God raised up a man, Moses, to whom He clearly explained what He required of His people. Moses delivered these messages to the people and it usually didn't go well. Even after leading them through the waters of the Red Sea alive to escape their captors, they doubted and grumbled. Paul tells us that all of their stories – those of the faithful and the unfaithful – are for our instruction.

- 2) Well, Israel eventually turned its back on God to such an extent that they began worshipping false gods, idols made of wood and stone. And so, God allowed another nation to come and take them captive.

One of the men taken captive was a young man named Ezekiel. Ezekiel was a prophet. And God began to speak to him.

And one day, as he sat, the “word of the Lord” came to him and said, “Son of man, make known to Jerusalem her abominations ...”
(Ezekiel 16:1-2).

And God began to explain what the devil wanted them – and us – to forget: just how much God had loved them and cared for them. I can almost hear a deep sigh of disappointment as God speaks these things through the prophet.

- 3) So, God told Ezekiel to say to Israel: “Thus says the Lord God to Jerusalem:

✠ “Your origin and your birth are of the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite” **(Ezekiel 16:3).**

Back in a time of extreme national loyalties, God described Israel as being born of mixed peoples and, therefore, wanted by none.

Because she was neither *this* nor *that*, she was unwanted by *both*.¹
And, then things get very personal and the imagery gets VERY vivid!

¹ Dr. Charles Dyer further explains: “In this parable on Jerusalem’s unfaithfulness Ezekiel pictured her as an unwanted child of a mixed union. Your ancestry and birth were in the land of the Canaanites; your father was an Amorite and your mother a Hittite (cf. v. 45). While Ezekiel had the *people* of Jerusalem in mind through most of this parable, this beginning seems to allude to the *city* of Jerusalem itself. Israel, of course, descended from Shem (Gen. 10:21–31); by contrast Jerusalem, before it was conquered by David (1 Chron. 11:4–9), was a Canaanite city (Canaan descended from Ham, not Shem, Gen. 10:6–20). The city’s early inhabitants were called Jebusites (Jud. 19:10–12). Why then did Ezekiel say that Jerusalem’s father was an Amorite and mother a Hittite? Perhaps the pagan Jebusites were associated with and were apparently like the Amorites and Hittites. This association may be suggested in the Table of Nations, which lists the Jebusites *between* the Hittites and Amorites (Gen. 10:15–16; see comments on the Amorites in Gen. 14:13–16). A similar point of association but not actual blood relationship is evident in the reference to Sodom as a “sister” of Jerusalem (Ezek. 16:46). The early beginnings of Jerusalem were like those of an unwanted child.” Dyer, Charles H., “Ezekiel,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), I:1258.

† “And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths” (Ezekiel 16:4).

Now, as we all know, when a baby is born the first thing that happens is the umbilical cord is cut and cared for. Then a midwife or a nurse would carefully wash the baby’s body and rub its skin with salt, which would dry the skin and make it firm. After the baby was clean and dry, it would be wrapped snugly in a swaddling cloth. Swaddling clothes are amazing. When a child is wrapped tightly in one, it gives them the sense that they’re being hugged or cuddled. And hence, a sense of security; that someone loves them and is holding them.

But what God says about this baby is heartbreaking! She was *unwanted*. Have you ever felt unwanted? She was *uncared* for. Have you ever felt uncared-for? She experienced no sense of *comfort* or snuggling or being loved.

By the way, this kind of thing still happens today. This is a picture of a baby that was left abandoned on the side of a busy road in the Philippines last September.²



² Becca Longmire, ‘Abandoned Baby Girl Left in Cardboard Box on Side of the Road Sparks Hunt for Her Mother,’ PEOPLE, September 29, 2025; <https://people.com/abandoned-newborn-baby-girl-found-cardboard-box-side-of-road-philippines-11819229>.

Thankfully, she is fine.

Well, our story gets worse ...

‡ “No eye [not one] pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred, on the day that you were born” (**Ezekiel 16:5**).

‘In your state of utter helplessness, no one even gave you the compassion one human owes to another human!’

Never mind the lack of maternal or paternal love, human compassion was missing entirely!

Now, the baby in this picture is well-cared for, but the baby in our story was not!

No one pitied that baby. Rather, she was abandoned to an open field and hated – abhorred. Imagine the danger. What’s more vulnerable and helpless than a new born baby? Think of the elements; think of the wild animals. And the child is absolutely powerless to protect itself, or feed itself, or hide itself.

- Unfortunately, we are well aware of the ancient customs of infant exposure and infanticide which were practiced by many ancient cultures.

More often than not, children that were born deformed or who were unwanted were abandoned in various locations – in fields or on mountains or in small arks that were set upon the water.

This practice was known as the “exposure” of infants.

If you’ve ever read *Oedipus Rex* by Sophocles, you know that the king was “exposed” as a baby.

The idea is: ‘*We* don’t want this child, so we’ll let the gods decide if it should live. If it lives, the gods decided it should live. If it dies, then *the gods* let it die. Either way, *we* are not to blame.’

- By the early Middle Ages, when Christianity had settled into Europe, *oblation* was practiced.

This was the practice of unwanted children being given to monasteries to be cared for. The monks would then raise the child.

The word oblation comes from the Latin word *oblatio*, which means to ‘give an offering.’ The offering in this case was *their child*.

- Then, by the later Middle Ages and Early Modern period, *special hospitals* were built in Italy and elsewhere to care for illegitimate or orphaned babies who would otherwise die.
- Then, in the nineteenth century, Foundlings' Homes were used by married couples to abandon their children.

Financially struggling parents would abandon their kids (temporarily) until they could work and earn enough to care for them. But many of these children were never retrieved.

Well, the story God is telling through Ezekiel is heartbreaking, and He wants us to feel the full force of it!

From the day this child was born no one pitied it. And God wants to make sure we get that this is about His people!

He says, “YOU were cast out on the open field”; “YOU were abhorred on the day that you were born” (**Ezekiel 16:5**).

And it gets more vivid still – and watch the power of this!

- ✠ “And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing in your blood, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’” (**Ezekiel 16:6**).

The phrase “wallowing in your blood” literally means ‘kicking about in your blood.’

It is the most remarkable description of helplessness one can imagine. And also, the most remarkable description of divine compassion.

Looking at this child, unwanted and helpless – thoroughly unable to help it self, God spoke a word over her: “Live.”

And do you know what I and all those who have come to know Jesus understand? That baby was me. There was no one who could help me in my lostness. Spiritually, I was cast into an open field. I was separated from God – without Christ, without eternal life, without any way to deliver myself. I didn’t earn it, nor even understand it at the time, but one day God stood over me and spoke one word: ‘LIVE.’ You might say I was ‘born again.’ I was the object of God’s mercy, and grace, and salvation! Those on the outside couldn’t understand what had occurred. But I did. And nothing could ever be the same.

But that’s not all! God says: *‘After I gave you this new life, I didn’t stop blessing you and looking after you!’*

✠ “I made you flourish like a plant of the field. And you grew up and became tall and arrived at full adornment ... your hair had grown; yet you were naked and bare ... [So] I spread the corner of my garment over you and covered your nakedness; I made my vow to you and entered into a covenant with you, declares the Lord God, and you became mine” (Ezekiel 16:7-8, ellipsis).

God is describing a *betrothal* here.³

This unwanted child was now not only the object of God’s mercy and new life; she’d also become His bride – bound to Him by an eternal covenant.

This too is something believers understand. Because the Bible – especially the New Testament – makes it clear that the Church – that

³ Dr. Charles Dyer further explains: “The symbolic act of spreading the lower part of one’s garment over another signified protection and betrothal (cf. Ruth 3:9). God pledged His fidelity to Jerusalem and took her as His own.” Dyer, Charles H., “Ezekiel,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. by J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), I:1256.

is all who have come to know Jesus Christ from every part of the world – the Church, as one, is the very Bride of Christ.

It's one of the most endearing images in Scripture, this marriage of Jesus and His Church. The Bible tells us how Jesus chose and loves His Church, His *Bride*. And how, just as there was a betrothal period in biblical times where the bride and groom were separated until the wedding day, so, in this age, Jesus' Bride is separated from her Bridegroom and anxiously awaits His return!

The Bible teaches that the church will be united with her Bridegroom at the Rapture of the Church. Then, there will be an official wedding ceremony in Heaven, and a Marriage Supper to celebrate it when they return to earth (**Revelation 19:7–9; 21:1-2**).

But the Bible is also clear that the Bride has an important task to perform while she awaits His return. Do you know what that is? What the Bride's greatest responsibility is during the betrothal period while we await our Lord's return? It's to be *faithful* to Him in His absence (**2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:24**).

And this is where the story God is telling through Ezekiel gets really sad. After saving this child and, once grown, taking her as His beloved bride,

He continues ...

✠ “I clothed you also with embroidered cloth and shod you with fine leather. I wrapped you in fine linen and covered you with silk. ¹¹ And I adorned you with ornaments and put bracelets on your wrists and a chain on your neck. ¹² And I put ... earrings in your ears and a beautiful crown on your head. ¹³ Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen and silk and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour and honey and oil” (**Ezekiel 16:10-11**).

This child who we first see as ‘kicking in her own blood in an open field has now been fitted out like a queen! She lacks nothing. God, her Husband, had lavished every luxury upon her!

But the story continues; it's devastating ...

† “You grew exceedingly beautiful and advanced to royalty. ¹⁴ And your renown went forth among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through the splendor that I had bestowed on you, declares the Lord God.

¹⁵ “But you trusted in your beauty and played the whore because of your renown and lavished your whorings on any passerby; your beauty became his. ¹⁶ You took some of your garments and made for yourself colorful shrines ...

¹⁷ You also took your beautiful jewels of my gold and of my silver, which I had given you, and made for yourself images of men, and with them played the whore. ¹⁸ And you took your embroidered garments to cover them, and set my oil and my incense before them. ¹⁹ Also my bread that I gave you—I fed you with fine flour and oil and honey—you set before them for a pleasing aroma; and so it was, declares the Lord God ...

²² And in all your abominations and your whorings you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, wallowing in your blood ...” (Ezekiel 16:13-19, 22).

This is what Christian Deconstructionists do. They *forget* what God did for them in the days of their youth, when they were naked and kicking in their blood. Their faith doesn't need *deconstruction*; it needs *a resurrection*.

Ah, but let's not go too hard on these folks because, truth be told, ALL Christians can see themselves in this story – the *honest* ones anyway.

We've all had times when we, even after our salvation, have been *unfaithful*. When we've *forgotten* all God did for us when we were helpless, lying in a field. We've even made idols of people and things that have no place in our lives. And we've taken the good things God has provided for us and wasted them upon the world. We've grown familiar with the good things our Father has lavished upon us.

So maybe, on this morning of mornings, our faith could use some resurrection too!

Well? What do you think God will do with this ungrateful, unfaithful, whoring wife? The answer is surprising to say the least! We find it in verse **60** ...

✠ “Yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish for you an everlasting covenant” (**Ezekiel 16:60**).

He goes on to say, “Then you will remember your ways and be ashamed ...” (**Ezekiel 16:61**).

This is the matchless, never-ending love and mercy of God toward all those who love Him, even those who prove unfaithful.

Conclusion

1) ✠ This friend, is what love looks like. That intangible, incomprehensible thing that can only be explained by looking to the One who made us in His image.

✠ So, if you’re one of God’s children who’ve been unfaithful to Him after all He’s done for you, how about coming home today?

✠ Or perhaps you’ve never had a relationship with God, but you are beginning to see things differently this morning.

Maybe you’re looking back at your life and you’re realizing that God has always been there for you. Maybe your heart is opening and you’re seeing that you need to know Him. You’ve heard plenty *about* Him, but you’ve never really *known Him*.

2) Now, we mentioned some science stuff this morning, and a bunch of reasons why people doubt God, but can I be honest with you? In my experience, the reasons I’ve seen people use to explain their unbelief – indeed, the main arguments used by those who have ‘deconstructed’ their faith – actually have very little to do with these questions.

They have to do with their disagreement about what God calls *sin*. Now, if there is a God who made us in His own image – and I certainly believe there is – then He has a right to tell us what He expects of us.

But these folks don't want some God telling them what to do, thank you. They'll decide what is right and wrong. They want to be their *own gods*, and so they are.

But they have a big surprise waiting for them. Because the world that crucified Jesus *has not seen the last of Him*. Have I mentioned that He is alive? Yes He is, and He promised that He'd return soon to judge the living and the dead.

Do you know what Jesus says in the very last chapter of the Bible, **Revelation 22**?

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done ... Surely I am coming soon!”
(Revelation 22:12, 20).

- 3) Now I have been in fulltime Christian ministry for 37 years. And, even though I'm not the sharpest knife in the draw, I have learned a few things.

And first and foremost, I've learned that I cannot convince anyone that there is a God in Heaven who loves them – God has to do that. I can't convince you that Jesus rose from the dead. *He did*, but I can't convince you of it. To *believe* that is the realm of *faith* – *reasoned* faith, but *faith* nonetheless.

I could answer every question with the most reasoned, biblical answer and it *still* would not be enough to push you over the line from unbelief to faith. That's something that only God can do. For an entrenched skeptic, no proof is enough; for someone with faith, no proof is necessary.

And, mark it down, it's God that opens our eyes to see what was previously invisible to us. Salvation, faith, every aspect of it, is at its very

root all about God. And some of these things are like an enigma wrapped in mystery.

- 4) But there was a day, many, many decades ago when I, as a young sailor sitting in a missionary Church with cinderblock walls in Sigonella, Sicily, finally saw what God had done for me. There may be some here – or within the hearing of my voice on the internet – who will have that experience today. That’s the way God works. He uses the preaching of the Word to open the eyes of those who hear it.

If you’re a Christian this Resurrection Sunday, I want to ask you to *remember* and *reflect*. If you’ve become dull of hearing, if you’ve lost the joy of your salvation, then be honest with God today and ask Him to breathe new life into your walk – to resurrect your faith!

If you’ve never come to Jesus, I’m going to invite you to do so this morning.