

Flipping the Switch

April 4, 2018

I live in a house with a lot of light switches. No, seriously. The prior owner apparently *loved* light switches. One wall in the family room has 8 switches clustered together, but as far as I can tell, only 3 do anything.

After growing frustrated by flipping one switch after another trying to turn on an actual light, I decided to methodically test and label them this past Sunday evening. As my husband settled down in anticipation of the hockey game, I set out to flip each switch and give it a proper name.

Near the entry way, I encountered two faceplates of seven switches: overhead light, porch light, etc. To my husband's dismay, one of the switches turned off the television and cable box. It rebooted itself and had to go through a several minute, self-check before it would put the hockey pre-game show back up. I labeled that switch "tv" and vowed never to touch it again.

By the back door, I next tackled the bank of 8 switches. Most did nothing. One switch, however, caused a dramatic effect: it made my husband shout out as I again turned off the tv and cable box, causing another reboot just as the game was about to start. I labeled that one "tv" and moved on.

Near the kitchen, I found six more light switches. Again, several did nothing as I flicked them on and off. Then, I heard my husband's plaintive wail, "Nooo!" and I knew I'd found another tv switch, just as the puck was about to drop.

Really now, who needs 3 switches in a single room to turn off the tv? That's what the remote is for.

But, the rebooting made me reflect on our Easter experience – you wondered where this was going, right? As we enter this Easter season, it's fair to ask whether anything has changed in our lives. After the hype and festivities of Easter, have we already returned to life as usual? When we flipped the figurative light switch, did the room remain dark? Or has our Easter experience caused a reboot, including a protracted self-check?

On Sunday, I heard a twist of similar English words that makes this point well. Fr. Andrew Linn emphasized during worship, "We don't celebrate a resuscitation, but a resurrection." One who has been resuscitated will die again. As witnesses to the empty tomb, we must not be merely resuscitated in Christ Jesus, so that we can continue our lives as they were.

Instead, we proclaim a resurrection that brings new life -- life that will not perish. That is a reboot worth celebrating. Halleluiah! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!