

“I AM” Seven Times

Session-7: I Am The Resurrection And The Life

Notes

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Introduction

John 11:21-27

21 Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Analysis of the fourth “I Am” statement:

- ✓ Identity (characteristic): “I am the resurrection and the life.”
- ✓ Our respond: “Those who believe in me ... [they] will live”
- ✓ What are the results: “everyone who lives [in Christ] and believes in me [Christ] will never die.”

Remember as in the two previous lessons (Lesson 5 & 6), in this last “I Am” statement he is speaking to Martha, a believer, who declares that she believes the “I Am” statement and that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God.

I. Resurrection

The author reminds us that Lazarus had been dead for four days when he finally arrived to help Martha’s and Mary’s brother. And that Martha’s grief had made her bitter, telling Jesus had he been there sooner he could have saved her brother. Her faith in the last day of the resurrection was strong, a distant future event; but her grief from the present loss of her brother made her question Jesus.

But Lazarus had believed in Jesus and he died. Why? Because Jesus is referring not to our earthly body, but that we will never die spiritually.

II. Life Temporarily Overcome By Death, But Then Triumphant

The author suggests just as Martha had resigned herself to resurrection at the last day, sometime in future, so we too think that the time Jesus finally comes into our lives it is too late. Death, defeat, failure all seem to be so final to us. But Jesus tells us, as he told Martha, that if you believe in him, there is resurrection, just as he resurrected Lazarus.

There are many situations – marriage, relationship, friendship, business, and more – that can be resurrected if you believe in Jesus. Human beings can be resurrected in many ways, but it requires believing in Him.

As the author points out, there is a great deal of similarity between “rebirth” (born again) and “resurrection. Both entail giving up the past and starting a new beginning full of hope and opportunity. The major difference is that resurrection involves death and rebirth does not. But being reborn spiritually requires one to realize the identity of Jesus Christ and commit to following His Way.

However, as we so often realize, so many do not go through rebirth until they experience a major defeat or failure. They think they don’t need a committed relationship with Jesus; they are in control and can do it on their own. But the major defeat or failure is almost like a “death” experience when it does happen. So they seek to resurrect their lives or are born again as a result and try to establish a relationship with Christ Jesus. The renewed relationship with Jesus through resurrection or rebirth as a result of the “temporary death experience” brought them through the temporary tragedy or grief that was in the present or here and now.

Remember, the whoever believes in Him shall live, our rebirth or resurrection renews our life and gives us new hope in this earthly life.

III. Life That Is Never Overcome By Death

The author reminds us that Jesus made two different statements about death: 1) “Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live” and 2) “everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” The author states that the second statement implies that because of our renewed relationship with Jesus we are immune from future death-like experiences. Though we may experience them, they will not have the severe impact or extreme gravity or overwhelming tragedy because we were reborn, resurrected in Jesus.

And you ask, why? The author states that through our relationship with Jesus we are part of a flowing stream of indestructible life, simply because Christ has and offers eternal life to all who believe in him.

Hebrews 7:15-16

15 It is even more obvious when another priest arises, resembling Melchizedek, **16** one who has become a priest, not through a legal requirement concerning physical descent, **but through the power of an indestructible life.**

This contradicts, according to the author, the charge that we need to take death seriously. That when you are dead, you are undeniably dead; that death is finality and doom. But through example he explains that as Christians we believe all things are possible with God. And he tells us that Jesus does not want us to look upon the death of our physical, earthly body as such doom and gloom, but to view it as a transition in the ongoing stream of our spiritual life.

In **John 8:51** Jesus says:

46 Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? **47** Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God." **48** The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" **49** Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. **50** Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it and he is the judge. **51** **Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death."**

We seem to always view death as the death of our earthly body, but Jesus wants us to view it as simply the transition into another phase of our life.

Paul in **Romans 8:2** says:

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, **4** so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

And in **II Timothy 1:8-10** it says that Christ Jesus:

8 Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, **9** who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, **10** but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

So throughout scripture we find that through Christ's death and resurrection, death has been conquered; and though we lose our earthly bodies, we continue to live spiritually. That is Christ's promise. Through Him we have life that will never be overcome by death.

IV. How Should We Respond?

What did Jesus ask Martha after he told her that he was the resurrection and the life; he asked: "Do you believe this?" He is asking her to trust in Him and will she commit her life to Him. For Martha this was a true test of her faith that ordered her to roll away the stone. The words of Jesus turned her from bitter grief to a renewal of life and a new beginning.

According to **John 11:39-40**, Martha thought Lazarus was definitely dead:

39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." **40** Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

But instead, she discovered that life was still possible, thanks to believing in Jesus.

And as Paul states in **II Corinthians 2:15-16**:

15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; **16** to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life.

The author then asks us all a series of questions to test your faith and belief in Jesus Christ:

Are you ready to trust Jesus for a resurrection here and now, and not just the last day – then open the door so that He can do His part?

Are you ready to live with holy abandon, daring to follow Jesus and invest yourself in life in the face of risks; in a faith with Jesus in your inner being that makes you absolutely indestructible?

He points out that early Christians lived like people who knew that; that because they believed in Jesus, they would never die. It shocked the Romans who kept trying to stamp out Christianity.

"Do you believe this?" As the author stated, "Easter is God's gift to us, how we respond is our gift to Him.