

# Resurrection and Life

Seven times in the book of John, Jesus says "I am ...". These statements are not metaphors about Jesus, but rather Jesus stating that He is God. Each statement reveals part of God's character and who He is in us, making it possible for us to say, "I am new."



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## INTRODUCTION

Today, we circled back to a chapter we previously skipped because the "I am" statement Jesus makes in chapter 11 is one of two "I am" statements that sums up the rest. In John 11:25, Jesus states, "I am the resurrection and the life." The bottom-line of this statement up front is: Jesus is the one who reverses the curse because He is life itself!

## STARTER QUESTION

Think about a time when you may have experienced a delay from God. What emotions did you feel? Looking back on it now, can you see where there might have been a greater blessing because of the delay?

## INTO THE WORD

1. In the story of Lazarus (John 11), what was the last thing Jesus said (to Martha) before He prayed to the Father and raised Lazarus from the dead? In hindsight, did Jesus have an agenda when he delayed in going to see Lazarus? If so, what was it and who benefited from it?
2. Focusing on John 11:4-16, identify two or three points that were hard for the family and disciples to understand. What was the deeper meaning that explains these points of confusion?

## APPLICATION

3. As a follower of Jesus, what reminders can you take with you throughout your day to provide comfort and confidence when things don't seem to be going your way?
4. When you hear "reverse the curse" related to the resurrection of Jesus, how does this apply to your life?

## PRAYER

Lord, thank you for being the resurrection and the life. Thank you that when it seems that there is a curse in our lives or a manifestation of death that you reverse it and bring life into our situations. Help us trust you more and see this truth in our situations. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## **SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE TO SELECTED QUESTIONS:**

### **Question 1:**

The last thing that Jesus told Martha is: "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die. Do you believe this, Martha?" (John 11:25-26)

The whole point of raising Lazarus from the dead was to bring glory to God. When God is glorified, those who follow Him always benefit, because He lives in us and loves us. Romans 8:30-39 tells us that God will also glorify the ones that He predestines and calls and justifies. That is *us* if we call Him our Lord. Romans 8 also says that even though we might die, we are "more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

### **Question 2:**

John 11:4-6 – Even after hearing from hearing from the two sisters, Jesus stayed where He was for two more days. Jesus loved this family and knew their pain but did not respond immediately. His delay had a specific purpose. God's timing, especially His delays, may make us think he is not answering prayer or at least not in the way we want. But He will meet our needs according to His perfect schedule and purpose.

John 11:8 – The disciples objected to going back to Judea to see Lazarus because that is where people wanted to stone Jesus. Jesus is showing his knowledge of and control over daily events. When believers are firmly in God's will, there is assurance that we can take courage and proceed in His path.

John 11:14-15 – Jesus tells his disciples that Lazarus is dead and that He is glad He wasn't there. Lazarus died so that Jesus' power over death could be seen by His disciples and others. The raising of Lazarus was an essential display of Jesus' power and the resurrection from the dead is a crucial belief of Christian faith.

### **Question 3:**

Romans 8:38-39 reminds us that nothing will separate us from the love of God. Knowing that God can raise someone from the dead and knowing that He loves us with an unending love...knowing these things can give us enough comfort and confidence to face anything life throws at us.

Another passage that can provide comfort and confidence in God is 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, which reminds us that even though life is difficult and affliction abounds, there are great things to look forward to because "what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Throughout Scripture, God is shown to be all-powerful, unchanging and loving. And He continually tells us that we have nothing to fear. But we need to believe and have faith. (Also refer to Mark 5:36.)

Pastor David made the point that we should not measure the love of God by how much health, wealth or comfort He brings into your life, but instead by how much of Himself he gives you. God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him. He further reminds us, we are made for the glory of God, not just the removal of pain. The "outer self" will die but the "inner self" will never die.

### **Question 4:**

When Adam and Eve fell under Satan's influence and disobeyed God, various consequences were required and man's effort to reconcile with God were always going to be inadequate. Only the death and resurrection of God's sinless Son carrying the sins of men for all time could provide a way to "reverse the curse". If I have a daily relationship with Christ, I have the faith that He loves me and will give me life giving power. Because he died, I can have that faith.