



“I Am the Resurrection and the Life” ~ Nov 18, 2018

OPEN

What is the most fragile item you have ever handled? Do you ever feel that a Bible truth, such as the Resurrection, is fragile? Do you feel that it needs very “gentle handling”?

God’s truth is intrinsically true, not dependent upon my grasp or handling of it. In John 11:25 Jesus declared, “I am the Resurrection and the Life” which is perhaps one of the most profound of Jesus eight “I Am” statements:

DIG

On one hand, we could “encounter and examine” the Resurrection. That is a very, very important approach.

But we must also “experience and express”. This seems to be the intention of Jesus when He revealed Himself as the Resurrection and the Life to Mary, Martha, and His other followers in Bethany.

Read the story found in **John 11:17-44**. Take time to ponder this account in three “scenes”. How does Jesus speak life to death? How does He take a far, distant belief in a resurrection and invite His followers to believe that He, Himself is the present Resurrection and Life?

- *A sad situation* - “Lazarus is dead” - verses 14-22
- *A crucial conversation* - “do you believe” - verses 23-27
- *A total transformation* - “the dead man came out” - verses 34-43

Do you believe that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life...*right now in your life*? Tread carefully what Paul has to say about this in **Colossians 3:1-4**.

If Jesus is the Resurrection and Life, then His followers are....?

Read **Ephesians 1:15-23**. What does Paul pray for in the life of Christians? Specifically in his request to experience God’s power (see verse 19), what is the source or nature of that power (see verse 20)?

I Corinthians 3:9 and 16 provide us with four Biblical word pictures which help us understand how we are linked into God’s power. Jesus is our Resurrection and our Life. And we are partners with God in His Kingdom and mission.

Instead of the Corinthian error of thinking the Christian journey requires “spectacular personal effort” or a “spiritual superstar leader” what can we learn from the four metaphors?

- We are God’s fellow workers and He is at work WITH us
- We are God’s field and He is at work IN us
- We are God’s building and He is at work THROUGH us
- We are God’s temple and His glory OUT-SHINES from us

Taken together these images convey that the Christian is in a vital union with God, and as a result, it is His power on display. We *can* live in the power of the Resurrection as Paul longed for in **Philippians 3:10**.

REFLECT

KAKORRHAPHIOPHOBIA is the fear of failure. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are not immune to this fear. That is why it is so appropriate that Paul concluded his masterful argument about the Resurrection of Jesus with this:

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”
I Corinthians 15:58

- Because Jesus is the Resurrection and Life we can live with **FREEDOM**
See Romans 8:1-11
- Because Jesus is the Resurrection and Life we can live in **FULLNESS**
Compare Ephesians 3:14-17 and Ephesians 1:15-23.
- Because Jesus is the Resurrection and Life we can live **FEARLESS**
Consider the prophesy of Ezekiel 37:1-10

For some further reflection on the Resurrection...

For research read **The Case For Christ** by Lee Strobel or **The Reason for God** by Timothy Keller. Another author, John Lennox, writes as a Christian who works in the sciences and often debates those trying to debunk Christianity on scientific grounds.

For a time of personal worship about the Resurrection, listen to [Forever](#) as sung by Kari Jobe

For a touching personal testimony about the impact of the Resurrection listen to the thoughts of [N T Wright](#)