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1 Corinthians

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Jesus: The Resurrection and the Life

In the book of John, Jesus states that, “I am the Resurrection and the life: …” (John 11:25, KJV). This is another “I am” statement in the book of John, that Jesus, in this passage, is making a declarative statement by claiming that, 1) He is the Resurrection and, 2) the life, but also, that 3) He is the very essence/originator of life, not understood by those around Him. Jesus also states the purpose of this event (raising Lazarus from the dead) to those around him by stating, “That this sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby”(John 11:4). Jesus continued to abide in the same place when He heard Lazarus was sick for two more days so God would be glorified along with the Son (verse 6).

When Martha went out to meet Jesus on the outskirts of Bethany, the discussion that followed was very revealing about the power of God through Christ Jesus. Martha states that if Jesus would have been there, He could have saved Lazarus, showing her faith in His healing power. Jesus assures Martha that Lazarus will live again and Martha responds with, “I know he shall rise again in the resurrection of the last day.” This is where Jesus clarifies what He means by, “Thy brother shall rise again”, (verse 23). Jesus clarifies to Martha, “(1)I am the resurrection, and (2) the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, (3) yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:25, 26; KJV)

Jesus shows not only is He the source of both the “resurrection” and “the life” but that He is life! The source of life, that from His Father, He received all “authority” in heaven and on earth. The life that Jesus gives, to those who obey the gospel, can not be defeated by death or time because Jesus works outside of time except for that which He has promised He will do. The resurrection, in our finite minds, usually is focused from an event perspective when it really is about Jesus life generating power.

When Christ asked Martha, “Believest thou this? (John 11:26) She answered the “resurrection and the life”, the very essence of life, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou are the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.