

“I Am The Resurrection And The Life”

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live” (John 11:25).

Our hearts were broken and our spirits were heavy. The doctor had explained that our youngest daughter, Akaisha (fourteen months old), had a very large mass inside of her and needed to be taken to a larger hospital. Although it seemed like the longest trip of our lives, within a few hours we arrived at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where the surgeon confirmed what we had already heard.

No surgery would be performed until her temperature was lowered. While we waited, my wife and I could hardly eat or sleep. I know I’m not Mary or Martha and I wasn’t in Bethany, but in the night the phrase, “I am the resurrection and the life,” became a word from God to me. The surgery was successful, and to make a long story short, Akaisha (our little Lazarus), is now fifteen years old and doing fine.

The declaration, “I am the resurrection, and the life,” is the fifth of the “I Am” statements of Jesus in this fourth Gospel. Originally spoken to Martha in the hour of her sorrow over her brother’s death, the sufficiency of Jesus is wonderfully set forth. Perhaps the Holy Spirit will make this word a word of hope for some heart that is heavy over the death of a loved one or the death of something special in his or her life.

This title teaches that the Lord Jesus is the Person of life! The strange name, “I Am,” finds its roots in an Old Testament revelation of God. Indicating that He always had been, was, and would always be sufficient, the Lord said to Moses from the burning bush, “I AM THAT I AM.” In our New Testament text, Jesus revealed that He is the great “I Am,” the Person of life, the Sufficient One in every situation.

This title teaches that the Lord Jesus is the power of life! Not only did Jesus say, “I Am,” but He said, “I am the resurrection.” Martha believed that there would be a resurrection “at the last day” and that Lazarus would “rise again” (11:24), but Jesus revealed Himself to her as the “resurrection” in her dark day. He alone has the power to bring life out of death, hope out of despair, a future out of an unpromising situation.

This title teaches that the Lord Jesus is the principle of life! Jesus didn’t just profess to be the “resurrection.” He said, “I am the resurrection and the life.” As the “resurrection,” He raised Lazarus from the dead, or got him up. As the “life,” He sustained him with life, or kept him up. The “Christ, Who is our life” (Col. 3:4), wants to live His life through us. May our lives be channels that reveal His life!