
Encounter(ing) God

Jesus

Part 7

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Today

- **Continuing our series on the I Am statements of Jesus**

Observation — *We are living in a culture of death, like no other time in my 54 years. From our entertainment, to our demonic devotion to abortion and infanticide, death is now worshipped. Nothing is more contrary to the nature of God, than death.*

Today — we're going to battle culture by magnifying and extolling life — and thereby dethrone our unholy fixation, practice, and fear of death!

The I AM Statements of Jesus

...what Jesus said about Himself

- **I AM** — Self-Existent, Self-Sufficient, All-Powerful, All-Knowing, Ever-Present, God in human flesh who has come to invite you into glorious relationship/friendship.
 - **I am** the Bread of Life — when partaken of gives eternal life!
 - **I am** the Light of the World — won't walk in darkness, light of life!
 - **I am** the Door — only unique access — only opening for salvation
 - I am the Good Shepherd
 - **I am the Resurrection and the Life**
 - **I am** the Way, the Truth, the Life
 - **I am** the Vine
-

I Am the Resurrection and the Life

General observations about life from the Word of Life...

- God created life out of the overflow of His own life — sharing love and relationship
- Creation became very good when God made man in His image, and breathed breath of life in man
Genesis 1:26, 2:7 — God is life, He values life, He offers life!
- **Deuteronomy 30:19** — Choose life! (to Moses and Israel)
- **Psalms 16:11** — God shows path of life. (He shows how to receive/walk in)
- **John 6:48** — I am the Bread of Life. (feeds, nourishes, satisfies us with)
- **John 8:12** — Jesus gives light of life. (no need to walk in darkness/death)
- **John 10:10** — Jesus came to give abundant life. (overflowing life)
- **John 14:6** — I am Way, Truth, Life. (essence, source, nature)
- **Acts 3:15** — Jesus is the Prince of Life. (crucified Prince of Life, God raised from dead)

- **James 1:12** — God gives crown of life. (crown of life is recognition and reward)
- **Revelation 2:7** — We'll eat from the tree of life. (forbidden Eden, feast heaven)
- **Revelation 20:15** — Book of Life. (name recorded; if not, lake of fire, death)
- **Revelation 22:17** — Thirsty can drink freely from water of life. (invitation/exhort)

God is life, He values life, He offers life!

No surprise that Jesus said...

- **John 11:25-26**
 “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

Now — unpack these two verses by looking at the **Person, Promise and Power** behind them.

Person — Resurrection and Life

Jesus own nature and personhood

- Jesus makes statement here, but **gave glimpses** of His Person **previously**
- **John 2:18-22**
 So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?” Jesus answered and said to them, “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**” Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” But He was speaking of the temple of His body. Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

Application — it wasn't until **after** the resurrection that the disciples had their “**aha**” moment of what He was trying to tell them about Himself. He raises the dead and gives life — **He is Resurrection and Life!**

- **John 5:21** — another prior glimpse
 For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.

Application — Jesus the Son has the **authority and ability** to **raise the dead** and **give life** to them!

**He is Resurrection and Life —
 Who He is, is what He does —
 there is no separation between the two.**

Promise — Believers Live and Never Die

He's talking about spiritual death and separation from God

- “he who believes in Me, though he may die, yet he shall live; lives and believes in Me, never dies”
- **prior glimpses** of this **promise...**
- **John 5:24**
 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

Application — *hears word, believes, has everlasting life, no judgment, passed death to life.*

- **another glimpse**
- **John 8:51**
“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.”

Application — *most assuredly, keeps word, never see death!*

- **Paul paints picture**
- **2 Corinthians 5:4**
For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

**Because Jesus is Resurrection and Life,
believers never die spiritual death —
are swallowed by life.**

SO IMPORTANT — *we must change our **mindset**, our **vocabulary**, our **grieving**. Not **dead** but **alive**, not **was** but **is**, not **hopeless** but **hopeful**.*

- **John 14:28**
...if you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, “I’m going to the Father...”

Interesting/comical- after Jesus raises Lazarus from dead, **John 12:9-11**, Jewish religious leaders want to kill Lazarus because people are coming to Jesus through him.

Nothing or no one can kill who Jesus has “lived”!

Power — Over Death, the Devil, and Hell

- **Romans 6:9 — Paul**
... knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.
- **Peter** — 50 days after resurrection
- **Acts 2:22-24**
“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.” (*death*)

Application — *Peter recognizes that death has no power over Jesus — it’s impossible for death to hold Him — the Resurrection and Life! I’m glad the One who promised us that we’ll never die, wasn’t held down and overcome by death Himself.*

Question — How did Jesus conquer death, the devil, hell exactly? Besides life, another benefit?

Answer —

- **Hebrews 2:14-15**

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Application — *He took on flesh and blood like us, died in our place, destroyed the devil who had the power of death, released us who feared death from lifetime of bondage! PTL!*

- **John encounters Jesus in Revelation**

- **Revelation 1:17-18**

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “**Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**”

**Jesus, the Resurrection and Life, has the keys of hell and death.
He destroyed the devil, He lives forevermore.
We live eternally through Him, not fearing death.
It’s merely a shadow to walk through —
holding the hand of Him Who is the Resurrection and the Life!**

Close

- Your body is going to die, you are going to stand before God, you will be judged based on what you decide about Jesus. We walk, don’t run, don’t panic — we are calm and composed.
- **Acts 17:30-31**
Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.
- *believe, trust, keep word, pass from judgement, death, hell to eternal life in heaven*
OR
- doubt, reject, disobey, be judged, found guilty, die spiritually in hell forever
- **YOUR CHOICE!**

Discussion Questions

1. How do you perceive that we are living in a culture of death?
2. What can *you* do to battle the culture you live in by magnifying life?
3. When did the disciples realize what Jesus was talking about, when He said He would raise up the temple in three days?
4. In John 5:24 and John 8:51, how emphatically did Jesus want people to understand what He was saying? Why?
5. Discuss the picture that Paul paints in 2 Corinthians 5:4.
6. How would you explain to someone that there is no reason to fear death?

NOTES