



Go for God!

# **“I AM THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE!”**

## **John Chapter 11**

~ Sometimes life can throw at us challenges and irony, like this lost dog poster -



~ In this chapter Jesus gives us Five Keys to Eternity; the word “KEYS” is used because Jesus said in Revelation 1:17-18 - “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.”

- > Eternity Key #1 – JESUS LOVES US! (v1-6)
- > Eternity Key #2 – THE LIGHT OF JESUS IS FOR US! (v7-16)
- > Eternity Key #3 – JESUS OUR RESURRECTION AND LIFE! (v17-27)
- > Eternity Key #4 – JESUS TELLS US TO COME FORTH! (v28-44)

> Eternity Key #5 – JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR! (v45-57)

> Eternity Key #1 – JESUS LOVES US! (v1-6)

(v1) Lazarus means, "whom God helps."

(v2-4) Here we learn that Lazarus' "sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Have you ever thought that your sickness may be for the glory of God? Or how about a fellow believer who has died.

- Paul the apostle wrote in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 - *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

(v5-6) Let us embrace the love of Jesus Christ like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus according to these promises:

(1) God's love brings EVERLASTING LIFE! - John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

(2) Let us receive the SACRIFICIAL LOVE of Jesus Christ! - John 15:13 - *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.*



**Jesus died for you and pulled you out of the fire!!!**

**(3) Let us LOVE ON ANOTHER! - John 13:34-35 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.***

**> Eternity Key #2 – THE LIGHT OF JESUS IS FOR US!  
(v7-16)**

**(v7-8) Jesus always teaches us to walk in FAITH and not in FEAR!**

**(v9-10) Let us gain insight on LIGHT from the Dictionary of Biblical Imagery -**

**If God and his Son are light, light becomes a natural symbol for salvation and the new life. *"The Lord is my light and my salvation,"* the psalmist testifies (Ps 27:1 RSV). The person *"who does what is true comes to the light, that it may be clearly seen that his deeds have been wrought in God"* (John 3:21 RSV).**

**In Christ's great discourse on himself as the light of the world, those who follow Christ are defined as people who *"will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"* (John 8:12 RSV). According to 1 Peter 2:9, believers are those who have been called *"out of darkness into his marvelous light"* (RSV).**

**The implied message is clear: if God is light, to come to God is to come to the light and to receive life. We might note also the echo of Christ's**

resurrection in the picture of the sleeper's arising from the dead (like Lazarus).

Jesus said, *"You are the light of the world.... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven"* (Matt 5:14,16 RSV).

Paul was sent by God to the Gentiles *"to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light"* (Acts 26:18 RSV). This light is not only part of the church's evangelistic proclamation but also characterizes life within the church: *"If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin"* (1 John 1:7 RSV).

**(v11-15) Lazarus is dead, yet he sleeps; where did his soul and spirit go when he died?**

Lazarus would have gone to *Abraham's bosom* (Luke 16:22), also known as paradise (Luke 23:43), his physical body is dead and decaying, yet Jesus says he sleeps because He knows He will resurrect Lazarus spirit and soul back into this dead body that He will heal and Lazarus will come back to life once again, thus Lazarus body sleeps. All believers in Jesus Christ will receive a brand-new body that is *immortal and incorruptible* made for *heaven and earth* (1 Corin. 15:50-54; 2 Corin. 5:1-6), as well as the *"new heavens and new earth!"* (Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1)

**(v16) Thomas is reflecting on what was spoken in verse 8, *The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?"***

**> Eternity Key #3 – JESUS OUR RESURRECTION AND LIFE!**

**(v17-27)**

**(v17-26) Martha believed in life after death, but she had not come to the realization, or FAITH that Jesus is truly the RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE, thus Jesus says, "I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!"**

**- The word resurrection is anastasis (Gk.) a standing up again, i.e. (literally) a resurrection from death. Regarding the resurrection Isaiah said, *Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.* (Isaiah 26:19)**

**In Daniel 12:2-3 - *And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the***

*firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.*

- The word *LIFE* is *zoe* (Gk.), Jesus says that in Him is *life ABUNDANTLY* (Jn 10:10); *ETERNAL* (Jn 3:15); and *EVERLASTING* (Jn 6:47)! The New Testament consistently teaches hope in the resurrection of the believer based upon the resurrection of Christ as the "*firstborn from the dead*" (1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Colossians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

This idea of resurrection is expressed in terms of such images as a *transformed body* (Philippians 3:21), a *new dwelling* (2 Corinthians 5:2), and *new clothing* (2 Corinthians 5:4; Revelation 6:11). The New Testament also contrasts resurrection to life with resurrection to judgment (John 5:29; Acts 24:15; Rev. 20:5-15.).  
(From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

- Insight: When a believer dies, they immediately go to HEAVEN (John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:1-6; Phil. 1:23; 3:20-21) awaiting their glorified physical body to return with Jesus to earth at His second coming; in which Jesus will establish His 1000-year reign on earth; after that all believers will go to the "new heavens, new earth, new Jerusalem" forever and ever!!!  
(spoken of earlier)

(v27) Observe Martha's confession of faith, "*YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD.*"

> *Eternity Key #4 – JESUS TELLS US TO COME FORTH!*  
(v28-44)

(v28-38) Here we experience the emotion of death, family and friends weeping; Jesus groaned in the spirit *and was troubled*, He *wept, and then groaned again*. Empathy and victory are manifested as Jesus wept and groaned.





(v39-44) I have written “His Lazarus,” because Jesus determines Lazarus life and eternity; remember Lazarus means, “*whom God helps.*” This act is for the “GLORY OF GOD” and Jesus’ “THANKS” God beforehand. (God help us for your glory, Lord Jesus, loose us and let us go! – Ephesians 2:1-10)

> *Eternity Key #5 – JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR! (v45-57)*

(v45-52) Unknowingly the high priest prophesies that Jesus is the *SAVIOR OF THE WORLD!*

(v53-57) This passage confirms Jesus’ statement to the religious leaders at a previous confrontation, John 5:39-40 - *You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.*