

# Jesus Christ & His “I AM” Statements

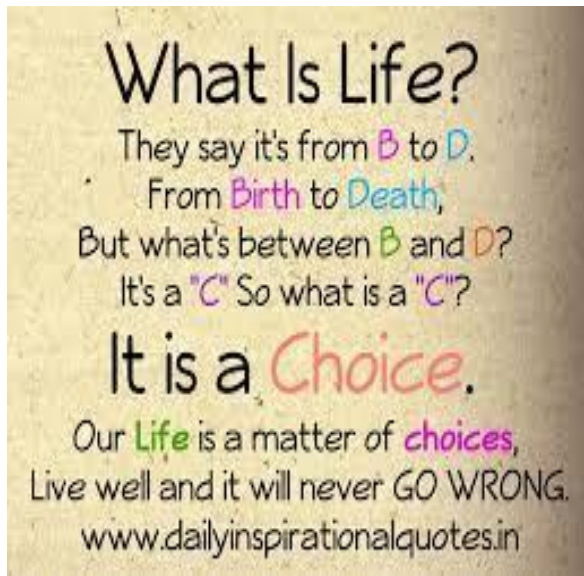
I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)

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Bible Reading: John 11:17-28

Today’s subject is the 5<sup>th</sup> of Jesus’ great “I AM” revelations. The height of Jesus’ public ministry comes when Jesus learns that His close friend Lazarus is about to die. Jesus waits, but then goes to see Lazarus only after he passes away. Jesus also weeps at the death of His friend. After discovering nascent faith (just beginning, budding, developing, growing, beginning to display signs of future potential) in His followers, Jesus calls Lazarus forth (forward, into view, into existence) from the grave. Such a great sign by the protagonist (chief, leading, principal character/figure in a real situation) sparks an equally great reaction amongst antagonists (people against Jesus), who now openly seek to capture and kill Jesus.





### **JESUS' GREAT CLAIM** (V25a)

In this verse Jesus responds to Martha's statement with a great claim, a claim only God could make: "I Am the resurrection and the life". Here is a critical fact: Jesus does not say that He gives the resurrection and life to people, but He is the Resurrection and the life. Jesus, of course, does give resurrection and life to believers; but His point here is far more important. Jesus declares that He is the very being & essence, the very power & energy, of life.

Therefore, He can (a) Give and sustain life as he wills (b) Resurrect and restore life as He wills.

This is an extraordinary claim> It means that human beings—in fact all of life—exists only by the will & power of Jesus. Being the power & energy of life, Jesus is the Source of all life. Nothing exists apart from His will; therefore, if a dead person wishes to live, only Jesus can give him/her life. And if a living person does not wish to die, only Jesus can keep him/her from dying. The Bible says:

1. *In him was life, and the life was the light of men (John 1:4)*

2. *“For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in himself”.* (John 5:26)
3. *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they have life and have it abundantly”.* (John 10:10)
4. *Talking about the grace of Jesus Christ, Apostle Paul says “And which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”.* (2-Tim 1:10)
5. *Whoever has the Son has life, who does not have the Son of God does not have life.* (1-John 5:12)

### **JESUS’ PROMISE: Believe...** (vv25b-26)

Jesus followed His great claim with a great promise: anyone who truly believes in Him, will live even after death (v25b). Upon dying, believers live in another world—in heaven, in the spiritual dimension of being, in the very presence of God Himself. The believer who has passed from this world is not at some unknown place, in a semi-conscious state or in a deep sleep, locked up in a compartment in a unknown-place or in a space moving about & floating around on a fluffy cloud. NO SUCH THING AT ALL.

The true believer is fully alive, living in heaven, in the very presence of God Himself. According to the Biblical teachings, another world exists, just as this world exists. It is the spiritual world & dimension where God and Christ and angels exist. This is the world that the Bible calls heaven. This is where all true believers who have gone on before, now live.

What a wonderful & glorious news! When people who have believed in Jesus die, they go to live in heaven—the spiritual world where God and Christ and the heavenly hosts live. *Hallelujah!* Is perhaps the most fitting word that can express the hope & joy that fills the soul of the true believers because of this truth. Let us read the supporting Scriptures:

1. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses & Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (Luke 9:30-31)
2. And he said to him, “truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
3. “If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honour him”. (John 12:26)
4. “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (John 17:24)
5. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2-Cor 5:8)
6. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Philippians 1:23)

### **JESUS MADE A 2<sup>ND</sup> PROMISE**

Jesus made a second promise: anyone who lives & believes in HIM, will never die (v26). The idea is that the believer will never taste death, that is, never experience death. Quicker than the blink of an eye, the believer passes from this world into the next world. He or she is transported & transferred instantly into heaven. Believers never loose a single moment of consciousness. One moment they are conscious & living in this world; the next moment they are conscious & present in the next world. There is only one difference though: they are immediately made perfect [Fully transformed for eternal life].

1. That whoever believes in him may have eternal life. (John 3:15)
2. “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment but has passed from death to life.” (John 5:24)

3. “Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” (John 8:51)
4. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the spirit will from the spirit reap eternal life. (Galatians 6:8)

Note: Several scholars believe Jesus was speaking here of physical life rather than spiritual life, of the future resurrection of the body. They believe Jesus was alluding (hinting, mention in passing) to a future event known as “The Rapture” - a mystery that would later be fully revealed by Apostle Paul. {1-Cor 15:51-53 & 1-Thess 4:13-17}

The bodies of those who die believing in Jesus will live again (v25). They will be raised as incorruptible, immortal bodies when Jesus comes again. However, those who are living when Jesus returns will never die (v26). Their bodies will be instantly transformed into incorruptible, immortal bodies—*Glory to God!*

Now the most critical word in all that Jesus says here is the word believes. Receiving eternal life is conditional: a person must believe. It is the one who believes that lives after death. It is the one who believes that lives and never dies. It is as Jesus asked Martha: “Do you believe this?” IF ANYONE REALLY & TRULY BELIEVE IN JESUS, {ONLY JESUS}, HE/SHE WILL NEVER DIE—NOT SPIRITUALLY; HE/SHE WILL LIVE FOREVER.

### **MARTHA’S DECLARATION** (V27)

Martha believed and she confessed and called Jesus” Lord”. She declared that she believed three things:

1. That Jesus is the Christ—the Messiah. The words *Christ* and *Messiah* are essentially the same title. Messiah comes from the Hebrew (Messias), while Christ comes from the Greek

(Christos). Both words refer to the same person and mean the same thing: Anointed one. The Messiah is the anointed one of God. Matthew said Jesus “is called Christ” (Matt1:16); that is, He is recognised as the *anointed one of God*, the Messiah Himself. [two Scriptures by Jesus’ confessing Messiahship]  
(a)The women said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.” (John 4:25-26).  
(b) “I know him (God), for I come from him, and he sent me”. (John 7:29).

2. That Jesus is the Son of God. There are three places in the Gospel of John, where Jesus calls Himself the Son of God (John 5:25; 10:36; 11:4 plus 19:7). Other Scriptures that claim Jesus to be the Son of God are John 5:19-23 & 26; 6:40; 8:35-36; 14:13. All time famous verse “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have eternal life” confirms this point.
3. That Jesus is the one who was to be sent into the world by God. Jesus came out of (Gk.ek) the spiritual world into the physical world, out of the heavenly dimension of being into the earthly dimension of being. In other words, Jesus came out of the incorruptible world into the corruptible world. Out of the glorious world into the despicable/shameful world. Out of the powerful world into the weak world.

Now knowing that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life, what does it mean for us—the church, in the present times. Three points:

**First**, it means that Jesus is alive, living right before us in the person of the Holy Spirit. He is both in us and all around us. Our faith is living & alive and in constant communion & fellowship with HIM.

**Second**, it means that our believing loved ones are present with Jesus when they die. No longer imperfect in mind & body, but perfect: meaning more conscious, more aware, more alive than they were on earth. How do we know this? Because Jesus is alive in heaven, and when our souls & spirits depart from our bodies through death, we go immediately into the presence of the Lord. (2-Cor 5:8)

**Third**, it means that since Jesus is alive, so the resurrection of our glorified bodies is assured as per full chapter of 1-Cor15:1-58. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive (1-Cor15:22).

**REMEMBER!**

Christ did not promise the prevention of physical death; He guaranteed in Himself to give abundant life, including resurrection and eternity with Him. Christ did not prevent Lazarus's physical death (after being raised), Lazarus eventually had to die, but Lazarus had the guarantee of eternal life. Only through a strong, close, living relationship with Him, can we—the church experience this resurrection and this life. Only one kind of life—the life of God is truly life (Eph 4:18). Only it can overcome death.