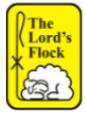


Death Is Not The end

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THE LORD'S FLOCK GROW DIGEST

Death which entered the world through man's sin is certain (Rom. 5:12). Apparently, almost everyone is afraid to die, so as Christians we pray for long life. God has assured us of eternal life as we walk in Christ. Hence, we should not fear death, for God is with us (Ps. 23). Our Lord Jesus Christ has given us hope because we realize that death is not the end, but it is the doorway to everlasting life.

A. Three stories about Jesus who brought people back to life:

1. The raising of Jairus daughter (Lk. 8:40-56) Jairus, a synagogue leader, pleaded with Jesus Christ to heal his 12-year-old daughter who had been sick. Jairus filled with hope relied on Jesus' healing power. However, news came that his daughter had died, yet Jesus told them to have faith. Then, Jesus healed Jairus daughter despite the people's unbelief and He said, "Talitha Kum." The girl was healed, rose, and was given back to her parents.

As Christians, we must never give up hope in our Lord because His miracles remind us to wait patiently for His grace.

2. The raising of Lazarus (Jn. 11:38-44) Jesus received the news that His friend Lazarus was seriously ill. However, He arrived on the fourth day, when people believed it was impossible to bring someone back to life. Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus had lost hope for their brother's death. Jesus assured them: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me will live" (Jn. 11: 25-26). He went to the cave and commanded His departed friend, "Lazarus, come out!" Lazarus rose and came forth.

As Christians, we can experience God's glory if we hold fast to our faith in Him. Even prayers considered "dead" can be revived through His divine intervention.

3. The son of the Widow in Nain (Luke 7:11-17). Jesus with His apostles passed by a funeral procession of a widow's son. Filled with compassion, He told the widow, "Do not cry." His instruction to the woman, who previously lost her husband, might seem puzzling. Then, He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise!" and the young man sat up and was given back to his mother. Truly, Jesus' words always carry more than a command—they bring grace, blessing, and a renewed hope.

In the same way, our desperation and anxiety over life's concerns must be entrusted to Christ, for in Him we find healing, grace, and hope.

Conclusion

Our Lord Jesus Christ's word is powerful. His command to "arise" leads anyone who is dead to stand and continue with life. On the cross, Jesus promised eternal life to the thief beside Him. Our trust in His divine identity will eventually save us.

Reflection

1. What prayers have you already given up on? Do you plan to bring them before God again?
2. How do you strengthen your faith to keep from falling into despair?
3. What are your favorite Bible verses that speak about death and eternal life?

Prayer: "Lord, there are people whom we love who have gone ahead of us. Help us to grieve with hope. As the fear of death creep in us, help us to trust that death is not the end but the start of new life with You. In Jesus name. Amen."

SCRIBES MINISTRY:

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