

Series: John

Title: Believeest Thou This?

Text: John 11: 11-15

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John 11: 25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...38: [the Lord came to the grave]...It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. 39: Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been *dead* four days. 40 : Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? 41: Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up *his* eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. 42: And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. 43: And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. 44: And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

There are some in this world who claim to be able to speak in tongues—some unintelligible, heavenly language that only they know—and they claim they can heal the sick. If someone you loved was being led to believe these things, what scripture would you use to declare the truth to them?

There are plenty of scriptures to show that speaking in tongues was not some unintelligible language. The Lord gave some the ability to speak a foreign language that the speaker did not know before. But the word they preached was not some unknown language. They preached the gospel of Christ's person and finished works in saving his people.

Acts 2: 4: And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5: And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6: Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7: And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8: And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9: Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10: Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11: Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

We could show from scripture that Christ gave *to his apostles* the ability to lay their hands on others, that they might receive the Holy Spirit and gifts to heal. But when the last of the apostles died there was no one else to pass on those gifts.

Acts 8: 14: Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17: Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19: Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [he did not ask for the Spirit nor gifts to heal—he asked for the power to lay his hands on others that they might receive the Spirit and ability to heal—because he saw only the apostles could do so] 20: But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

The various gifts and signs God used in the early church are no longer needed because we have the complete word of God which bears witness that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. Those gifts were God bearing witness that Christ his Son is the Life. But it was only until the new testament scriptures were written down. It is Christ we must give heed unto!

Hebrews 2: 3: How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard *him*; 4: God also bearing *them* witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Now we have the complete word of God! This is the word is the witness—we are to take heed unto—it declares Christ is the Resurrection and the Life!

2 Peter 1: 16: For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17: For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18: And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. [they saw Christ transfigured in his glory—they heard God speak from heaven that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God, believe on him—so why does God not do this now? Listen] 19: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: 20: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21: For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.

But if I were speaking to someone troubled about so-called faith healers, I would go straight to John 11.

John 11: 25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

Every miracle our Lord worked declares the Lord Jesus Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. No man ever raised the dead—but right here we behold the Lord Jesus speak and raise Lazarus from the grave.

Hear the Lord's word, and believe on him; he says, "*I am the Resurrection and the Life; He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*"

MORE THAN BODILY

We need more than to be healed from bodily sickness. We need to be made the righteousness of God. What is the cause of sickness and death? Sickness is due to sin. It is due to sin the sin we are by nature. The sin inherent in every sinner born of Adam.

Romans 5:12...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

That one man is Adam. By Adam's one transgression sin entered the world and death by sin. So death passed upon all of us because in Adam all have sinned. We became guilty before God by Adam's one transgression. Our guilt before holy God is what we need to be healed of. Only Christ is the Righteousness who put away the sin of his people. He is the last Adam who represented God's elect.

Not only did we become guilty, sin and death passed into our bodies. This is why every man's body shall die and go back to the dust. These bodies are the product of Adam. We were conceived of Adams' corrupt seed. So we were conceived in sin. We were formed in our mother's womb in Adam's ruined image. Our nature is defiled, ruined, dead in sin by conception.

We need more than bodily healing. We need Christ the Life. A sinner must have Christ the Life. No sinful man can give us the healing we need!

Christ is the Life because he is Righteousness. The Son of God became a Man to make his people righteous in him. But Christ is without sin—that is the significance of our Lord being born of a virgin rather than of Adam's corrupt seed. He is sinless from the womb. He is the Life by which his people are given eternal life.

Christ is the last Adam who came forth to live and die for his people. He came to make God's elect righteous in him. Christ came to make us live by his Life. That is why the Son of God took the nature of

his people as a Man. He was without sin in his mother's womb. He knew no sin in his nature. He never committed sin. He is righteous and holy. He said, "I do always those things which please my Father." And he did so as the Head of God's elect who God gave to him to make righteous. Christ is THE Resurrection and THE Life because Christ is THE Righteous One. He lived under the law in perfect obedience even unto the death of the cross. Our Substitute made his people the righteousness of God in him by honoring the law on behalf of his people. He went to the cross and bore the justice of God in our place. Doing so he purged the sin of his people on the cross. His people were in him and we died in him under the justice of God.

Life is given no other way than Christ the Life. We must have our guilt put away. We must be made the righteousness of God. Christ alone is the Life because he alone is the Righteousness of his people.

That is how our guilt is put away and we are made righteous. But what about these bodies of sin? What about this sinful nature? We are born spiritually dead in sins. But Christ said, "*He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die?*" How are we made to live and believe in him? Scripture says, "You hath he quickened who were dead!" Christ came to that tomb and said, "*Lazarus come forth!*" And Lazarus, who was dead and buried four days, came forth!

Through the preaching of the gospel, Christ speaks. Regeneration is by the living Word—the Incorruptible Seed. Christ quickens. He regenerates. The Spirit creates new life in these bodies of death. His word is the incorruptible Seed that makes us born-again. He creates a new man in these bodies of death. The new man Christ creates is born in Christ's image. The new man is created in the righteousness and holiness of Christ. When Christ speaks we are resurrected to life. We live by his Life. We believe on him by his Word effectually giving us faith in him. He speaks the good news into the new heart, declaring, "he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Is 53: 5). It is Christ who makes us alive and willing to believe by his Power.

THE HEALED SHALL NEVER DIE

John 11: 25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

For every believer, these bodies shall be laid in the grave after we die physically. But Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. When Christ has made a sinner alive and brought us to believe on him, this is the good news. He said, "*He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.*"

The body must die because it is the product of Adam. It is sin. But the new man, the spirit Christ has created, goes to be with the Lord immediately. He that believes on Christ, though his body were dead, yet shall he live. Christ told the repentant, believing thief on the cross, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise." The new man is righteous and holy. Where there is no sin there is no death. Therefore in the new spirit, we go to be with the Lord in spirit immediately when we die. It is only the believer's body that sleeps in the grave. That is why the Lord said in verse 11, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth...but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep."

In south Arkansas in a little country cemetery my grandfather's gravestone has one word on it, "Waiting!" When Christ returns, by his Word, he shall say, "*Come forth!*" And the bodies of his saints shall come forth as his creation, entirely new, righteous and holy and without sin. It is because Christ is the Resurrection and the Life.

1 Corinthians 15: 45: And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit....47: The first man *is* of the earth, earthy: the second man *is* the Lord from heaven....49: And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50: Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51: Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, [Not all the bodies of his saints shall sleep in the grave, some of his saints shall be alive when Christ returns] but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be

changed. 53: For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 54: So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55: O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory? [listen—here is the healing Christ gives] 56: The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. 57: But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 98:1: O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

This victory—this gift of eternal life—is all by grace. It is the gift of God. And it is only through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

BELIEVEST THOU THIS?

After our Lord declared that he is the Resurrection and the Life by whom the sinner shall never die. Here is the Lord's question to you and me.

John 11: 26...Believest thou this?

That is the question. Do you believe on Christ? Not someone else, do you believe on Christ?

John 11: 27: She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Be sure to get this. There was a man named Hezekiah. By God's grace, the Lord was pleased to send Hezekiah sickness. And God sent word to Hezekiah by his messenger, declaring to him to put his house in order because he would die.

The Lord knew Hezekiah would not die right then. God appointed the day of his death and every man's death. The Lord knew the hour Hezekiah would die. And the Lord knew beforehand what he would do. But the Lord gave Hezekiah sickness and told him to put his house in order because, it was true, he would die, eventually. That is so of each of us.

How does a sinner set his house in order? He believes on Christ! God brought Hezekiah to cast himself on the Lord's mercy. That is why God sent sickness to Hezekiah. It was to turn Hezekiah to the Lord alone. The Lord did not send him sickness to turn him to some phony faith healer. It was to turn him to Christ alone! Look to Christ alone! Find out who Christ is and what he accomplished for his people. Believe on Christ alone!

When Hezekiah turned to the Lord, the Lord declared to him, he would not physically die for 10 more years. But after those 10 years, Hezekiah died physically. Yet, because Hezekiah believed on Christ the Life, though he were dead, he did not die. He lives right now with Christ!

Oh may God give grace to turn us from every phony healer, from every sinner here below, and make us cast ourselves on the mercy of God, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ? He said, "*I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*"

That is the question. What think ye of Christ? Believest thou this? May the Lord give us grace like he did to Martha that we might answer in truth as she did.

John 11: 27: She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Amen!

