

RAISED FROM THE DEAD

“Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with Him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.” Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” When He arrived at the house of Jairus, He did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. He took her by the hand and said, ‘My child, get up!’ Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but He ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.” (Luke 8:41-42, 49-51, 54-56)

The issue of raising from the dead is dealt with great emphasis only in the Bible, the book where we find profound truths. Although it is well known in the Christian society and among believers and followers of Jesus, still many do not understand, and to some to rise from death is not realistic. They consider it as mere historic event that has happened in the Bible and has passed away and need not to be remembered. Even to those who believe the issue is not well-understood, therefore it is not applied in their lives.

The Bible tells us clearly that dead bodies had returned to life after short period of their death. Listed examples are:

1. The Shunammite’s son restored to life after death (2 King chapter 4).
2. Tabitha returned to life by Peter at Joppa (Acts chapter 9).
3. Eutychus raised from the dead at Troas (Acts chapter 20).
4. Jesus Christ raised up Lazarus (John chapter 11).
5. Jesus raised up the widow’s son (Luke chapter 7).
6. Jesus raised up Jairus’ daughter.

In the first 3 examples God had used prophets and apostles to raise the dead. The last three examples and many more are occasions where Jesus raised people from death. God Himself is bringing people again to life. The meaning of Jesus is “God came to save us”. God’s purpose is to save human from death, so He sent His Son Jesus on earth. **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)**

Jesus died on the cross but after three days, He rose from the dead. In order for Jesus to be the Savior he took the sins of the world and died on the cross, as He said, **“I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.”** Jesus’ death was necessary to bring life to many and to give fruit that last forever. **For this is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all the nations.” (Luke 24:46-47)**

The aforementioned examples of raising from the dead speak about the physical resurrection of dead bodies. And those events made the issue of resurrection or raising from death easily understood by many people including the followers and believers of Jesus Christ. But there is another form of raising from the dead that is needed to be aware of. People who are living away from God, living in sin and wickedness, they are spiritually dead and are living in their graves. Physically they are alive but spiritually they are death. And unless they are born by the Holy Spirit of God they are living yet they are dead. **“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the spirit gives birth to spirit.” (John 3:6)** To receive spiritual life, human must pass spiritual death. **“You should not be surprised at my saying, “you must be born again. (John 3:7)** Human can take the opportunity to pass from death to life and spare himself from eternal death if he repents, confesses his sin and calls upon the name of Jesus, **“For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)**

People who never believe in Jesus are dead spiritually; their faces are sad, dried, wasted, like people living in graves. Crowds not believing in Jesus are people living in the big graveyards. And people once they give their life to Jesus, they are raised from death; they have cheerful look, not worried, and their hearts are full of joy, dynamic and prosperous.

In the chosen passage Jairus came and fell at Jesus feet, pleading for his only daughter who was dead. When a man is surrendering everything, confessing his weakness and inadequacy, Jesus will come and meet him. Jarius humbles himself for the sake of His beloved daughter. This is also how we should pray for the dead people around us and for our loved ones or for those who do not know Jesus –that they would be raised from the dead while they are still physically alive or now that they have still the chance to repent and confess Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

The language of the Bible in many locations calls those people who believe in Jesus as they pass from physical death to life. And those who are waiting to be resurrected at the day of the Lord will be with Him forever. **“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16)**

My dear and beloved: It is my prayer that this message will change you regarding how you look at life and death from different perspective. Remember that after physical death human cannot change his destiny, then it is up to you to decided now as you proceed to pray: Father God, thank You for your great love for me. I confess to you my sins, believing in Jesus’ death on the cross to give a new life. Lord Jesus, please write my name in the book of life and raise me up as you promise when You said, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26) Amen.**