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The Glory of God: John 11

Today we'll see that whoever believes in Jesus Christ, receives spiritual life that even physical death cannot take away.

Let's look at 8 spiritual principles to keep in mind during life's troubles:

#1 One of the best life skills that we can develop is to go directly to Jesus with problems that trouble us.

John 11:1-3, *Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."*

#2 Don't forget unanswered prayer comes from a God of love who is actively working out a greater good.

John 11:4-7, ⁴ *When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."* ⁵ *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, ⁷ and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."*

#3 The calm attitude of Jesus in regards to our impossible problems should also calm us.

John 11:11;14-15, ¹¹ *After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up"...* ¹⁴ *So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ & for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."*

#4 Suffering can lead us to feel disappointed with God.

John 11:17-22, ¹⁷ *On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."*

#5 Good theology can bring us peace in difficult times.

John 11:23-27, ²³ *Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*

#6 Knowing Jesus really cares comforts us in our troubles.

John 11:35-36, ³⁵ *Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*

#7 It's ok to question God's ways, but never question His motives.

John 11:37-40, ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

#8 Both Jesus' healings, and our response of faith when He doesn't heal, can benefit those around us.

John 11:41-45, ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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