

Jesus told her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.' John 11:25 NIV

**2 themes and 1 life:** Jesus is making a huge statement on who he is, 'I am the resurrection and the life' The two names of 'resurrection' and 'life' are two different things.

**The Resurrection ...** In the first part of his sentence, Jesus is talking about the resurrection. We have the benefit of knowing what happens to Jesus. We know that he dies – his body ceases to work. We also know Jesus bodily rose again, meeting the women and other disciples from the 3rd day. (see John 20). In Matthew's account is a dramatic scene between his physical death and resurrection when 'tombs broke open [and] the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life' (Matt.27:52 NIV). Matthew also records that the women disciples 'clasped his feet and worshipped him' (28:9 NIV) on the day of his resurrection.

**And the life...** Here, Jesus says that those who live in him will never die. He is talking about eternal life; not as starting in the future when the body dies but immediately when the person believes and follows Jesus. He had previously said this (see John 3:36) after a conversation with a Jewish leader, Nicodemus to whom he said you must be born again, born of the Spirit (see John.3:3-5).

Eternal life for a follower of Christ begins when they accept Jesus' call to follow him, and him only. That's when their eternal life in God's Kingdom begins and they are rescued from death.

Here we need a reminder...the biblical meaning of death is separation from God, who is life. Tom Wright says, 'The Christian has, according to the New Testament already passed from death to life'.<sup>i</sup> Tom's statement accords with Romans 8:11.

So, to confirm '**life after death' starts when a person becomes a follower of Jesus.** Before that they were dead, spiritually dead. Being born again is that start of 'life after death'.

**Life after that is 'life after 'life after death''<sup>ii</sup> and the resurrection** e.g., the body, the fleshy shell suit dies, and a new resurrection body given; see Philippians 3:20-21.

'Life after'... 'life after death'  
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Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life"

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<sup>i</sup> Wright, *Surprised by Hope* (London: SPCK, 2011), p.21.

<sup>ii</sup> Wright, p.210.