

"Live!"

As a foundation for this discussion, read the raising of Lazarus in John 11:1–44.

1. Comparing the raising of Lazarus with the event described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18, what similarities do you notice? What differences do you see?

I have never witnessed a resurrection. Do the raising of Lazarus and Jesus' own Resurrection *increase* your faith (cf. John 11:45 and 1 Thess 4:14), or are they religious beliefs that *require* faith? Explain your answer.

2. Take a closer look at John 11:21–27? What aspects of Martha's faith would you like to emulate? In what ways would you like to surpass her faith?

Read John 5:24–25. Notice that some of what Jesus is talking about has already come, rather than being a promise for the future. Would you say that you have already "crossed over from death to life" (v 24)? And, if so, what are some ways in which you are now experiencing that life?

3. Which one of the following statements best expresses how you most often feel about eternal life?

It is difficult for me to believe that God would give eternal life to someone like me.

I am cautiously optimistic that I will receive eternal life.

I know that as long as I put my trust in Jesus, I have eternal life.

I have been given eternal life and nothing I ever do can alter that.

Read 1 John 5:11–13. What does this passage say about the confidence you can have? What does it say about the source of that confidence? What in your life leads you to believe that you "have" the Son?

Recurring Questions

- » How have you seen God working in your life or the lives of those around you this week?
- » What prayer requests would you like to share with the group, including prayer for any spiritual struggles you may be experiencing?