

**If Jesus asked you this question, what would you reply?**

**Would it come from your knowledge (head) or the way you live your life (heart)?**

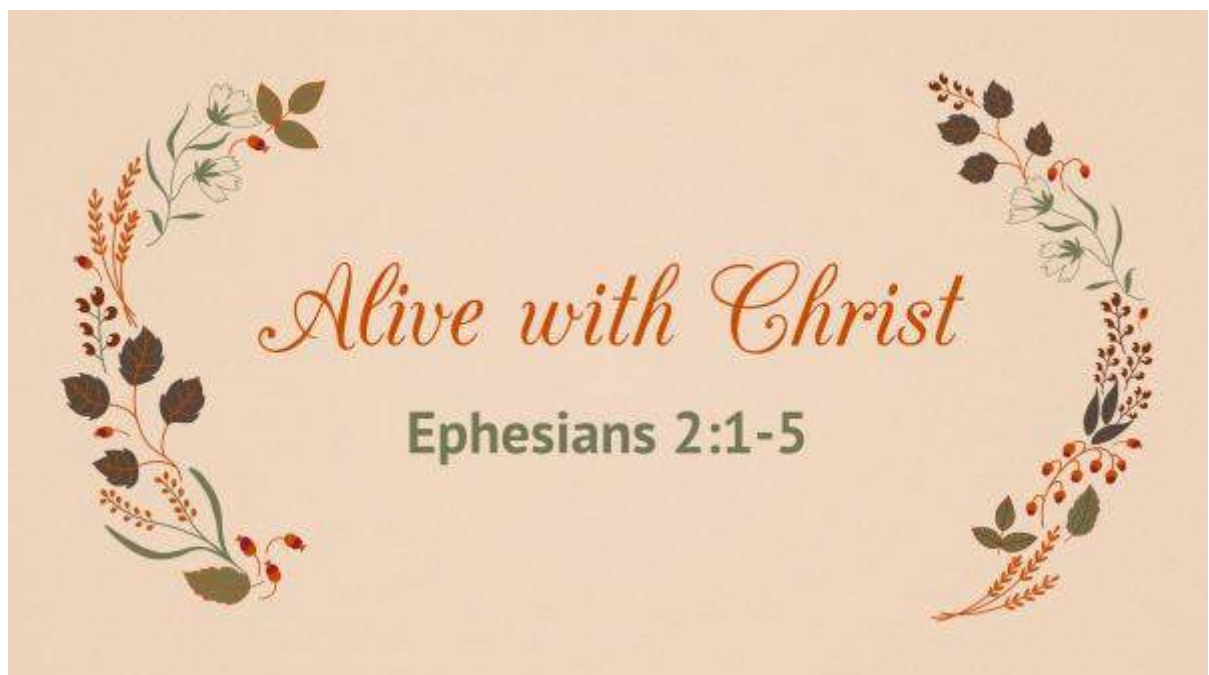
**Both are important but often we believe the facts but do not embrace them in our lives. Why is this?**

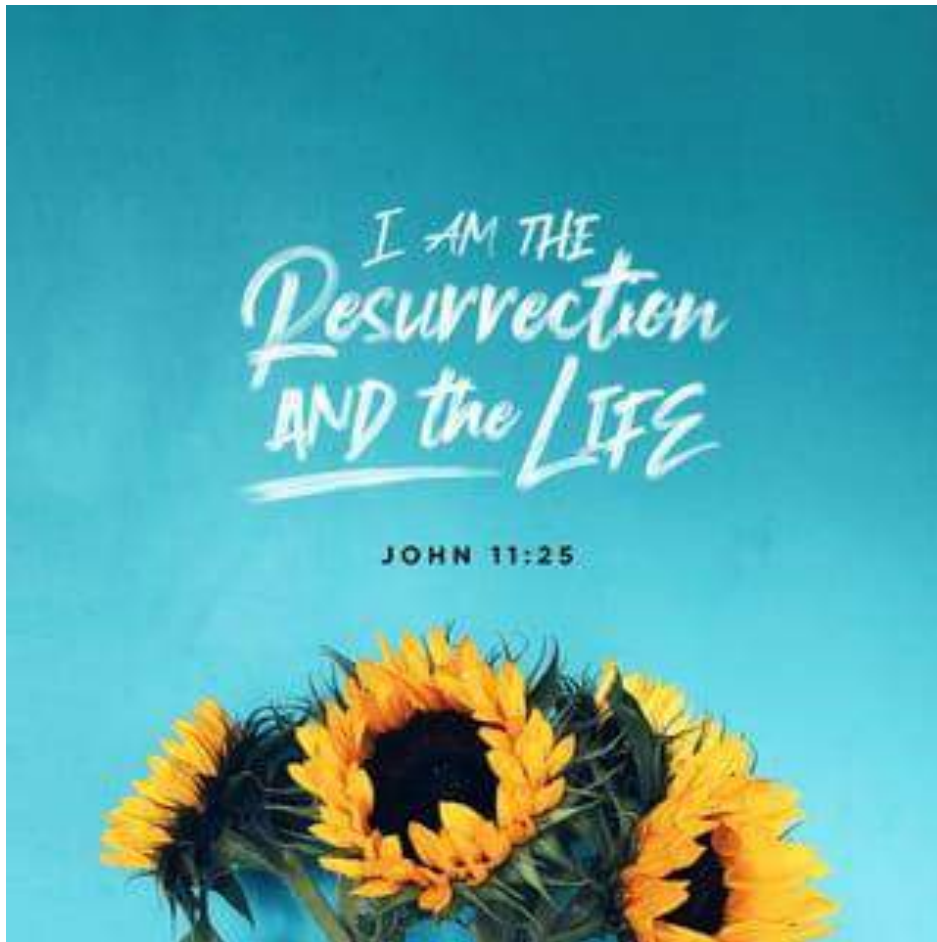
**There are seven "I Am" statements made by Jesus in the Gospel of John.**

**During 2023 we will reflect and pray about all seven.**

**Last month we did "I Am the Good Shepherd." Check out our website for further details.**

<https://godmanchesterbaptist.org/prayer/>





## **I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.**

*Reflection: Jesus alone has the power over life and death.*

### **Read John 11: 25 - 26**

- Does the fear of death have any power over your life?
- What reaction do you have when you are faced with the certainty of death?
- Are you afraid of it or do you bury your head in the sand and ignore it?
- Are you grieving the loss of a loved one?
- Does God know that pain, is he good, does he care, will he do something?

### **Read Ephesians 2: 1 - 5**

- Do you have a hope in the despair of this age?
- How does the truth of the resurrection impact your life?
- Does the promise of your resurrection establish a sense of hope within your spirit and give you the ability to deal with any suffering in your life?

## PRAYER OF EXAMEN

This is a tool used to help you reflect upon your day to help you better partner with God and be aware of how you are or are not experiencing the reality of God in your life.

Maybe ask yourself some questions such as:

- When did I sense the life-giving power of God flowing through me today?
- Did my hope of eternal life through the resurrection of Jesus empower me to interact with my life, circumstances, and others today?
- Did I display the glory of God?

## BREATH PRAYER

This is a style of prayer you incorporate throughout your day as you breathe.

It is typically 7 – 9 syllables.

This month's breath prayer is "Jesus, my source of life everlasting."

## ACTIONS

**Plant a seed** – Autumn is upon us, and we are surrounded by plants making seeds and flowers dying. Find or buy some seed. As you look at the seed remember that some part of the plant must die to create the seed. Bring to the Lord any situation in your life that is dead for example a relationship that has gone wrong, a ministry that is unfruitful, a friend who has turned their back on God. Ask the Lord to bring his "resurrection life" into that situation as you plant your seed. Next year watch that seed start a new life to remind you of your prayer in that situation.

**Find a familiar scent** – Myrrh is highly scented and in biblical times was associated with the smell of embalming bodies. Find a scent that reminds you of healing or cleanliness. It might be a candle, room freshener or antiseptic cream. Praise God for his victory over death at the cross and the hope of resurrection life that He offers you rather than the fear of death.

**Make some plans for your death** – Death can be a painful time for your loved ones. Why not help them now: make a will; sort out a funeral plan; make a playlist of music you would like played at your funeral.

1 Corinthians 6:14

GOD HAS RAISED

THE LORD

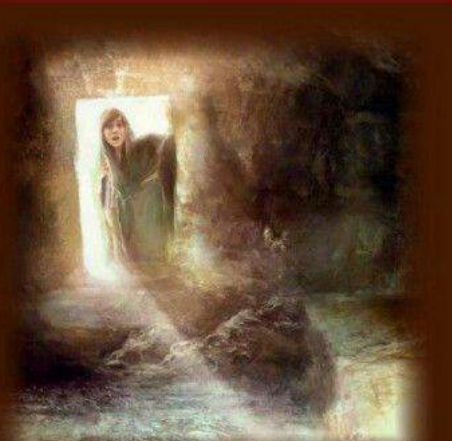
AND WILL RAISE US

THROUGH HIS

POWER.

Blessed be the *God and Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us *to be born again to a living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is *imperishable, undefiled, and unfading*, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *1 Peter 1: 3-5*

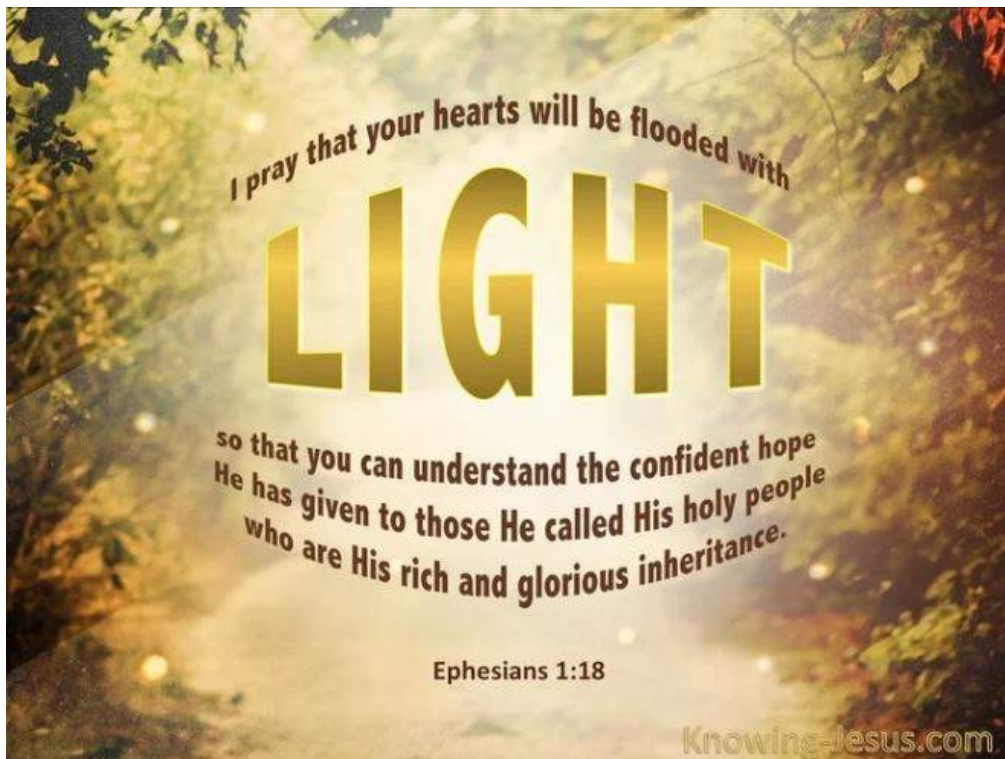




*Now if Christ is being preached that he has been raised up from the dead, how is it some among YOU say there is no resurrection of the dead?*

*If, indeed, there is no resurrection of the dead, neither has Christ been raised up. But if Christ has not been raised up, our preaching is certainly in vain, and our faith is in vain.*

*1 Corinthians 15:12-14*



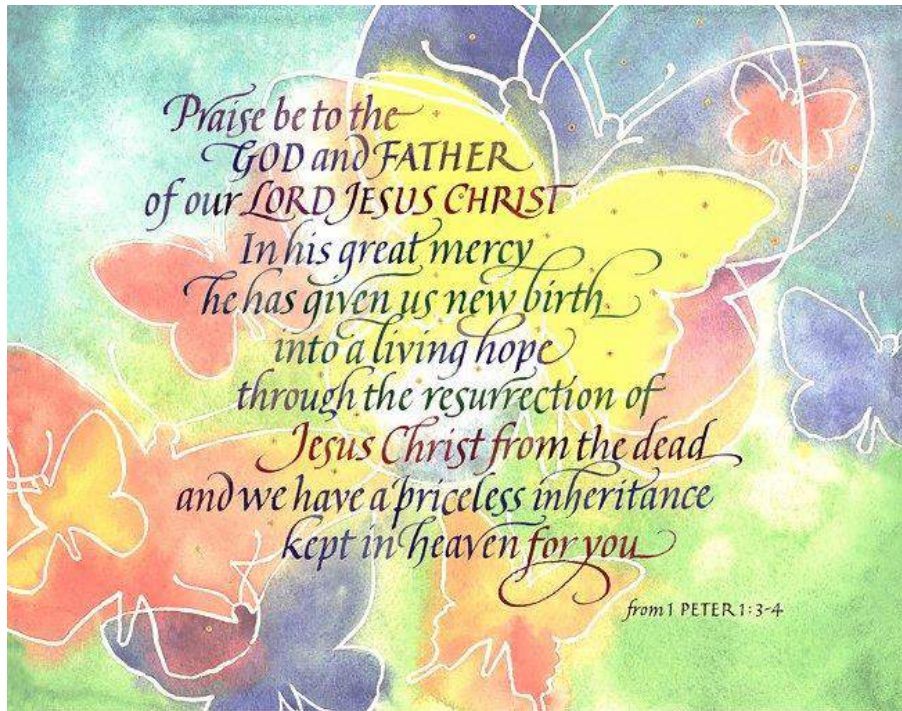
*I pray that your hearts will be flooded with*

**LIGHT**

*so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance.*

**Ephesians 1:18**

**Knowing-Jesus.com**



Praise be to the  
GOD and FATHER  
of our LORD JESUS CHRIST  
In his great mercy  
he has given us new birth  
into a living hope  
through the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ from the dead  
and we have a priceless inheritance  
kept in heaven for you

from 1 PETER 1:3-4



With great  
**POWER**

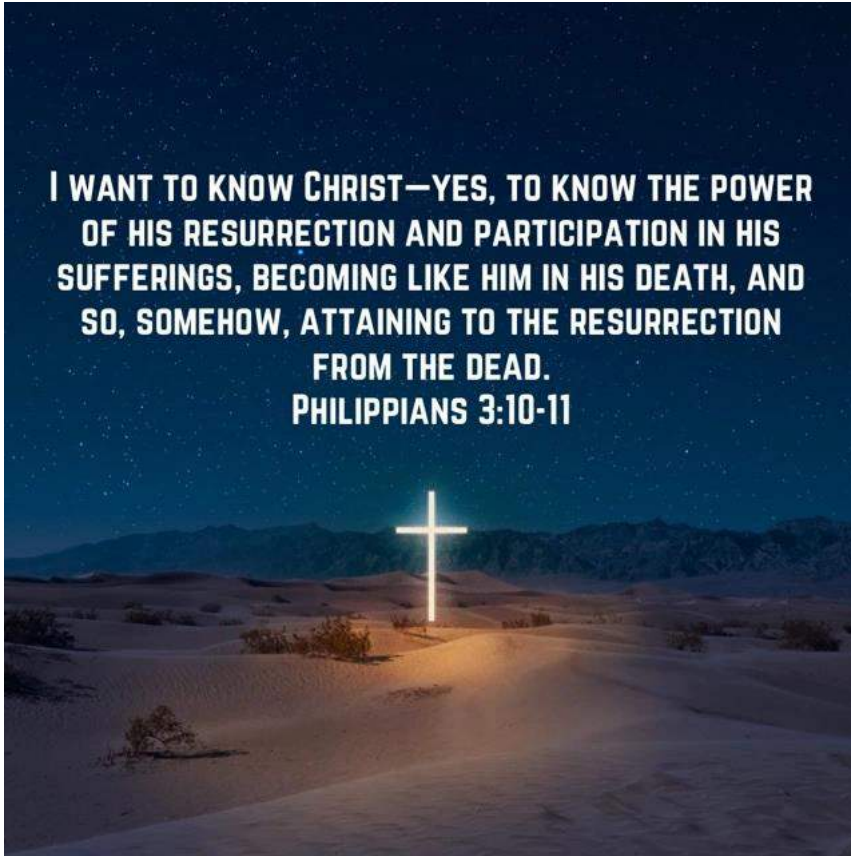
the apostles continued to  
testify to the resurrection of  
the Lord Jesus.

And God's *grace* was so  
powerfully at work in them all.

*Acts 4:33*

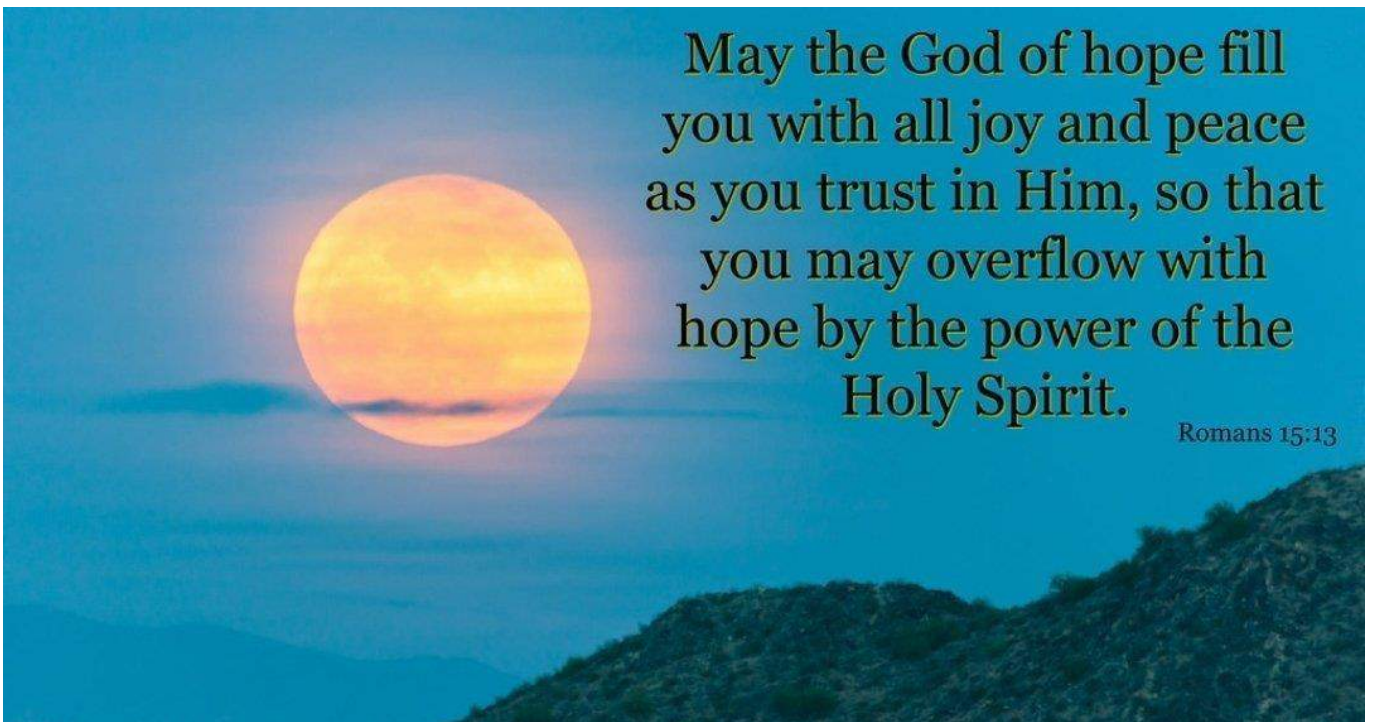


**I WANT TO KNOW CHRIST—YES, TO KNOW THE POWER  
OF HIS RESURRECTION AND PARTICIPATION IN HIS  
SUFFERINGS, BECOMING LIKE HIM IN HIS DEATH, AND  
SO, SOMEHOW, ATTAINING TO THE RESURRECTION  
FROM THE DEAD.  
PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11**



May the God of hope fill  
you with all joy and peace  
as you trust in Him, so that  
you may overflow with  
hope by the power of the  
Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



### ***Your Relationship with God – looking UP***

- When Jesus spoke to Martha and told her “I am the resurrection and the life.....”, he then asks her this question “Do you believe this?” What would be your reply?
- Christ’s resurrection has divided religious people since biblical times (Acts 23: 6) How important is the resurrection to you?
- How do you feel towards Jesus knowing the great cost he paid to bring you from death to life?
- How does this knowledge impact how you live and do life?

### ***Your relationship with your church community – looking IN***

- In John 11 when Jesus had heard that Lazarus was sick, he 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.” Pray that your life and the life of your church display the glory of God.
- There is sickness in parts of the world church, and many are declaring its death. Just like Lazarus some parts of the church seem to have been prematurely buried. Jesus promised that he would build (his) church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matt. 16:18). The resurrection power of Jesus is still at work in the church today. Jesus said about Lazarus “Take off the grave clothes and let him go” Maybe Jesus would say something similar to parts of the church today. This passage provides a picture of hope for the church. Pray that we may see the church come alive across all nations?

### ***Your relationship with those outside church – looking OUT***

Jesus calls you to rise up and become fully alive in order to give life – to bring hope to your family, friends, work colleagues and the world. Pray at how you can do that today.





Vincent Van Gogh - Sunflowers. 1888

The National Gallery - London

Van Gogh associated the colour yellow with hope and friendship. He suggested that his four "*Sunflowers*" canvases express an 'idea symbolising gratitude'. He seems to have been especially pleased with this picture, which he hung in the guest bedroom in his house in Arles in anticipation of the arrival of his great friend, the artist Paul Gauguin.

Notice Vincent paints these sunflowers at the end of their life, but their seeds hold the potential for new life.

Vincent knew that his sunflower paintings were special. As did other people. After he died, friends brought sunflowers with them to his funeral. Sunflowers became synonymous with Vincent, just as he had hoped.

Christians have a confident hope rather than one based on symbols. 1 Peter 1 3-5.

There is hope that mistakes and sins can be forgiven. There is hope that we can have joy, peace, assurance, and security in the midst of despair.

There is hope that Christ is coming soon – The blessed hope.

There is hope that there will come someday a new heaven and a new earth, and that the kingdom of God will reign and triumph.

Our hope is not in our own ability or in our goodness or in our physical strength.

Our hope is in us by the resurrection of Christ.