

Lazarus come forth!

▶▶▶ Dear Friend

“It is for God’s glory!” Jesus said: ‘Lazarus come forth!’”

I have recently been reading and meditating on the story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11.

In this story we see how Lazarus’ death was used for God’s glory. I have been challenged and encouraged by the way that what God speaks comes into being. Jesus said, “Lazarus, come forth,” and Lazarus was raised from the dead. When Jesus speaks, life takes place.

What brought Lazarus to life? It was the same Spirit that raised Jesus from death — and that same Spirit is living in us (Rom 8).

At another point in the story, Jesus said, “Roll the stone away.” He involved the people in the process of the miracle. He also told them, “Take off the grave clothes.” Jesus allowed the people to play a part in causing the glory of God to be revealed.

God often has us take part in the life that He wants to bring, to be involved in His glory being displayed in us and through us to others. By rolling away the stone and taking off the grave clothes we can play a part in God’s miracle.

My prayer is that God would help us to do to one another whatever it takes to see His glory manifested. May we roll away the stones that hinder God’s life in us. May we be people who remove the grave clothes and make room for a miracle of life from the Holy Spirit for the glory of God.

Let me ask you a question. What stone do you need to roll away in your being, situation or circumstances today for life to take place? What grave clothes in your own life do you need to lay aside to make room for the miracle you’ve been waiting for?

Both Martha and Mary voiced the same thing when they met Jesus. “If you had been here, my brother would not have died.” They knew who had the power to bring life over death. The truth for us now is this: Jesus is here and still longs to bring life over death. His desire has not changed: it is still to bring life in us and through us for a greater display of His glory. Jesus said to Martha, “Did I not tell you, if you believed you would see the glory of God!”

I believe God is calling us to do the possible, so that we will see the impossible happen through God’s power.

“God often
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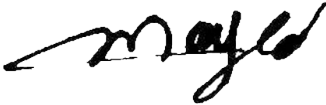
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May God help and empower us to minister to one another in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us rise up to be people who are excited to roll the stones away with confidence, so that God can speak life and we can see it spring up. Let us be people who join with God to remove the grave clothes, and bring the life and freedom He has for us and others, and thus reveal His glory.

So then, let us remember the words of Jesus: “Roll the stone away ... Lazarus come forth ... take off the grave clothes”. Then we shall see the glory of God!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maged Kalta'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Maged Kalta
YWAM England Executive Leadership