

## Live in Love

One of the first times I remember that God did not answer my prayers happened at my grandfather's funeral. I prayed that God would do a "Lazarus" for me and bring my grandfather back to life. I prayed and prayed, but to no avail.

I remember my grandfather holding me on his lap, hugging in an embrace of absolute and unconditional love. I was safe and content and truly my true self.

My prayer wasn't answered as I wanted but the memory of me being embraced by my grandfather lives on in my memory. Love is the one reality and experience death cannot destroy. Love lives on when we pass through the doorway of death. In the life to come in all of its completion, faith and hope are no longer needed since we are always in the Presence of the Person of our hope and faith- God.

Jesus clearly wanted his close friend Lazarus to die and so he waited and came to Mary and Martha his sisters in the heart of their grief and confusion. Jesus entered their experience of grief; he also wept with deep emotion for he experienced the same loss of someone that he loved...and in calling



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Lazarus from the tomb, he witnessed to his being the Resurrection and the Life.

The message of the raising of Lazarus is not that we will escape death since Lazarus had to go through a second physical death. Who would want that? The message is that Jesus is Lord of life and death and a new and fulfilled life awaits us after we breathe our last in this life. Death is not the final answer: Resurrection and Life have the final claim on our lives.

When someone we love dies, we grieve and we want

that person back here with us; we miss their physical presence. But our ability to love is what carries us through our grief. And realizing that Jesus is in the grief and mourning with us...he weeps with us...he envelops us with his Presence, much like my grandfather enveloped me with his arms and gentle kisses.

To live in Love... to Love in this life gives us assurance of what awaits us all in the life to come, the life that is ruled only by God's Love.

We are not angels but embodied souls...we need our bodies to embrace and to touch and kiss. We need our bodies to gather around a table to eat. We all await that new world where body and soul come together in a beautiful harmony that will allow us to engage in all of our wonderful senses. In Love we gather around this table and are fed with Body and Blood...the Food which nourishes us and strengthens our hope and faith.

One day our faith and hope will cease to matter as we live in absolute Love, being embraced by each other's Risen humanity.