



CHRIST EMPOWERED

Freedom

John 11:1-45

Part 9

**If You Want to Live Free,
You Will Need the Help
of God's Spiritual
Community**

John 11:1

A man named Lazarus was sick. He
lived in Bethany with his sisters,
Mary and Martha.

John 11:2

This is the Mary who later poured the expensive perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair. Her brother, Lazarus, was sick.

John 11:3

**So the two sisters sent a message
to Jesus telling him, “Lord,
your dear friend is very sick.”**

John 11:4

But when Jesus heard about it he said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”

John 11:5-6

So although Jesus loved Martha,
Mary, and Lazarus, he stayed where
he was for the next two days.

John 11:7

Finally, he said to his disciples,
“Let’s go back to Judea.”

John 11:8

But his disciples objected. “Rabbi,” they said, “only a few days ago the people in Judea were trying to stone you. Are you going there again?”

John 11:9

Jesus replied, “There are twelve hours of daylight every day. During the day people can walk safely. They can see because they have the light of this world.

John 11:10

But at night there is danger
of stumbling because they
have no light.”

John 11:11

Then he said, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but now I will go and wake him up.”

John 11:12

The disciples said, “Lord, if he is sleeping, he will soon get better!”

John 11:13

They thought Jesus meant Lazarus was simply sleeping, but Jesus meant Lazarus had died.

John 11:14-15

So he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And for your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there, for now you will really believe. Come, let’s go see him.”

John 11:16

Thomas, nicknamed the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let’s go, too—and die with Jesus.”

John 11:17

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he was told that Lazarus had already been in his grave for four days.

John 11:18-19

Bethany was only a few miles down the road from Jerusalem, and many of the people had come to console Martha and Mary in their loss.

John 11:20

**When Martha got word that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him.
But Mary stayed in the house.**

John 11:21

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if only you had been here, my brother would not have died.

John 11:22

**But even now I know that God
will give you whatever you ask.”**

John 11:23

Jesus told her, “Your brother
will rise again.”

John 11:24

**“Yes,” Martha said, “he will rise
when everyone else rises,
at the last day.”**

John 11:25

Jesus told her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.

John 11:26

Everyone who lives in me and
believes in me will never ever die.
Do you believe this, Martha?”

John 11:27

“Yes, Lord,” she told him.

**“I have always believed you are
the Messiah, the Son of God,
the one who has come into the
world from God.”**

John 11:28

Then she returned to Mary.
She called Mary aside from
the mourners and told her,
“The Teacher is here and wants
to see you.”

John 11:29

So Mary immediately went to him.

John 11:30

Jesus had stayed outside the village, at the place where Martha met him.

John 11:31

When the people who were at the house consoling Mary saw her leave so hastily, they assumed she was going to Lazarus's grave to weep. So they followed her there.

John 11:32

When Mary arrived and saw Jesus,
she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if
only you had been here, my
brother would not have died.”

John 11:33

When Jesus saw her weeping and saw the other people wailing with her, a deep anger welled up within him, and he was deeply troubled.

John 11:34

“Where have you put him?”
he asked them. They told him,
“Lord, come and see.”

John 11:35

Then Jesus wept.

John 11:36

The people who were standing nearby said, “See how much he loved him!”

John 11:37

But some said, “This man healed a blind man. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

John 11:38

Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.

John 11:39

“Roll the stone aside,” Jesus told them. But Martha, the dead man’s sister, protested, “Lord, he has been dead for four days. The smell will be terrible.”

John 11:40

Jesus responded, “Didn’t I tell you
that you would see God’s glory
if you believe?”

John 11:41

So they rolled the stone aside.
Then Jesus looked up to heaven
and said, “Father, thank you for
hearing me.

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You always hear me, but I said it out loud for the sake of all these people standing here, so that they will believe you sent me.”

John 11:43

**Then Jesus shouted,
“Lazarus, come out!”**

John 11:44

And the dead man came out,
his hands and feet bound in
graveclothes, his face wrapped
in a headcloth. Jesus told them,
“Unwrap him and let him go!”

John 11:45

Many of the people who were
with Mary believed in Jesus
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Principle #1

God's spiritual community exists first and foremost to love, to serve, to obey, to glorify, to worship, and to praise Him.

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Principle #2

It is in the context of relationships and community that God forms Christ's character in believers through the power of His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit.

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God desires to pour out an abundance of the Holy Spirit's power into your life directly through His spiritual community.

This is always done by living alongside others who are also being transformed by Jesus.

As a result, you will change. Others will change. You will grow. Others will grow. You will feel loved. Others will feel loved. You will come to experience God and His community in a new, personal, and supernatural way; and so will others.

Principle #2

It is in the context of relationships and community that God forms Christ's character in believers through the power of His Holy Word and His Holy Spirit.

Principle #3

God's spiritual community is one of the Lord's favorite tools to minister to the deepest hurts, needs, wounds, and scars of the human condition in a fallen world.

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Principle #4

It is through His spiritual community that God actively works to accomplish His purposes in the world.

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Principle #5

When God's spiritual community remains true to being missionally focused, spiritual communities help people be a part of something bigger than themselves.

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When God's spiritual community remains true to being missionally focused, spiritual communities help people be a part of something bigger than themselves.

Principle #6

God's spiritual community is meant to fan into flames our individuality in the Kingdom and our oneness in the body of Christ.

Principle #7

God's spiritual community exists to inspire others to have faith. It helps people become more than what they have been, maybe even more than they thought they could be.



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