

# UPCOMING EVENTS

WEEK 11

MATTHEW 9:18

## CONNECT PARTY

**Dessert Party Friday, March 31st at 6pm**

Join us for a casual evening with the leadership of Element. Come meet and connect with others. We will provide the desserts.

All are welcome, whether you are new to Element or have been coming for a while.  
RSVP at [connect@ourelement.org](mailto:connect@ourelement.org)

## BAPTISM INFORMATION MEETING

Come learn more about the what and why of baptism.

**Brief meeting TODAY, following each service.**

**eKids! Baptism Class:** April 9th at 11am.

## EKIDS! BODY SHOP & DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

**Drive-in movie March 24th at 6pm.**

## THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us.

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15 am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: [www.elementroots.org](http://www.elementroots.org).

- The Element Team

# AUTHORITY OVER LIFE AND DEATH

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:18  
Luke 8:49  
John 11:1-43  
2 Peter 3:9  
2 Corinthians

5:6-8  
Isaiah 52 & 53  
Daniel 12:2-3  
1 Corinthians 15  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Matthew 9:23-25  
Hebrews 9:27  
Acts 24:15  
John 5:25-27  
John 6:40

March 19, 2017

[www.ourelement.org](http://www.ourelement.org)

# AUTHORITY

## OVER LIFE AND DEATH

Without meaning to be morbid, today we will talk about issues of life and death all the while looking at Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life. The New Bible Dictionary states, *“From one point of view death is the most natural of things: ‘man is destined to die once’ (Heb. 9:27). It may be accepted without rebellion: ‘Let me die the death of the righteous’ (Nu. 23:10). From another, it is most unnatural. It is the penalty for sin (Rom. 6:23), and is to be feared as such. Both points of view are found in the Bible; neither should be overlooked.”*

**How do you view death?**

**Have you ever witnessed a joyful death?**

As we looked at last week, a local leader in the synagogue came to Jesus for help and healing; his little girl was dying and he wanted Jesus to heal her. This story corresponds very strongly to when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead in John chapter 11. In both cases people went to Jesus on behalf of the ill person, both of the ill people died, and Jesus restored life to both (though in Lazarus’ case it was four days later). In Matthew, it points out the authority of Jesus’ over life and death, but in John it points to a related concept, that Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

**Read John 11:17-27.**

**What are the times when you have accused God of doing (or not doing) something you think He should have done?**

**What was the ultimate result?**

**Would you say your default position with God is trust or distrust? How so?**

When Jesus talks to Martha in Luke 11 she starts off by taking Jesus’ words as simply a conventional expression of comfort, but Jesus intended His words to describe what He would actually do. Martha believed in the “resurrection” as a dogma that was taught by certain religious sects within Judaism. Through Jesus’ reply He turns Martha’s acceptance of a dogma into faith in His person.

Jesus’ words here are one of his most majestic and comforting utterances. Jesus said that He embodied the vital power to bring the dead to life: *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”* The one who believes in Jesus has eternal life that transcends all that this world can bombard us with, including physical death. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 the Apostle Paul echoes Jesus’ words and amplifies them, *“The dead in Christ will rise first.”* Jesus was saying that He embodied the resurrection life that could overcome death and that believers would be assured of an inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Jesus then directly asked Martha a question on the basis of His words, “do you believe this?”

**Do you believe Jesus’ words here?**

**What does that belief look like in your life?**

A very interesting feature of the New Testament’s teaching on death is that the emphasis is actually on life. Scripture faces death, as it faces all reality, with its emphasis on life. Death is treated more or less incidentally, as that from which people are saved. Christ conquered death. It was through death that He put away our sin: *‘The death he died he died to sin, once for all’* (Rom. 6:10). He died that believers may live. It is significant that the New Testament speaks of believers as ‘sleeping’ rather than as ‘dying.’ One commentary says, *“Therefore, for those who are ‘in Christ,’ death has been transformed so that it is no more than sleep.”* When Jesus calls Himself the Resurrection and the Life, and then goes on to resurrect someone, eventually resurrecting Himself, nothing could more graphically illustrate the finality and the completeness of death’s defeat.

**How do you have a tendency to get distracted from the life God has called you into?**

**How can those around you help you to keep your focus where it should be?**

**How can they pray for you?**

Jesus being the Resurrection and the Life means, for those who believe, there is not only a promised future, but a glorious present because the Gospel is a present reality. Nothing can separate us from God or His life given to us. That doesn’t mean that things aren’t hard in life, or that we do not face trials, but that nothing can separate us from God and His love and grace for us. Christians do not deny the reality of biological death, we live in the truth that because of the death of Jesus, believers have passed altogether out of the state which is death; we live in life.