

"Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, 'Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.' When Jesus heard that, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.' Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." John 11:1-5 KJV



Jesus probably often spent time at Lazarus's house. It is specifically noted that He loved the family. Perhaps they were childhood friends or they simply loved Him and knew who He really was. In short, Jesus could have prevented the sickness and subsequent death of a beloved friend, but did not. However, all was not lost. Christ had a higher purpose for His friend; to bring glory to Himself by Lazarus's resurrection from the dead. Death is but a cobweb to God! Lazarus's soul suffered naught and was probably perfectly in tune with and agreed to the plans God had for his life. There is no recorded complaint from any but others. Like Job's wife, his loved ones complained, but he did not. I believe he realized that Jesus had everything under control and would see to everything no matter what. Do we have such faith? *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God (obedient through faith to God's Word), they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, 'Abba (Hebrew for Daddy), Father.'* The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." We plead for healing from ailments without simply trusting the Great Physician who can even resurrect the dead. Sickness is not always punitive for the friends of God. We need to realize that death is a promotion and our lives should be yielded to the hand of God for His glory not our own comfort. Jesus set the bar for every saint when He died for our sins at Calvary. Jesus revealed His purpose to the sisters, but not to Lazarus. If our illness is for God's glory, others will know. Lazarus had to come back to this vale of sorrows to fulfill God's plan. You think he was happy about that? What if you had to leave Heaven for a time to bring God glory? How would you feel? We view Lazarus's resurrection as joyous, and it probably was, for everyone but him. However, we never hear a murmur fall from his lips. I believe he loved Jesus beyond human reason and so should we, no matter our circumstances. Rest in the knowledge that *"with God, nothing shall be impossible."*

Lift up Jesus with life and limb,
Let every day bring praise to Him,
Then even death can do no harm,
To those who lean upon His Arm. ~CGP

Our life is safe with God, no matter the peril we face as the friend of God. He is always in perfect control. Jesus said:

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you." John 15:13-15 KJV