

# LIVING FEARLESS: Imagine Your Life without Fear FEAR OF OUR LAST BREATH

July 11, 2010; Part 5

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John 14:1-3

## Fear of Our Last Breath

- "What if the cemetery is not the dominion of the Grim Reaper but the domain of the Soul Keeper?"

"Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead." *Isaiah 26:19 NRSV*

## Radical Departure from the Norm: No One Returns From the Dead

"Don't let your hearts be troubled... There is more than enough room in my Father's home... I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come and get you" *John 14:1-3 NLT*

"The living know that they will die, but the dead don't know anything." *Ecclesiastes 9:5 HCSB*

"There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you." *John 14:2 GNT*

- Jesus elevates funerals to the same hope level of weddings

## How Can I Know That Jesus Will Keep His Promise?

- If the tomb is empty, then His promise is not

"But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back." *1 Corinthians 15:23 NLT*

"Let me go over the Message with you one final time... [Jesus] was raised from death on the third day... he presented himself alive to Peter... his closest followers... more than five hundred of his followers ... James... the rest of those he commissioned... and ... to me." *1 Corinthians 15:1, 4-8 MSG*

1. Line up the witnesses: You can doubt one – 2, but 100's?

"Their eyes were opened" Luke 24:31 NLT

"It is I myself! Touch me and see" Luke 24:39 NCV

Mary called him "Sir" *John 20:15 HCSB*

The disciples saw Jesus cooking fish *John 21:9*

"Come and have breakfast," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" because they knew it was the Lord." *John 21:12 HCSB*

2. Because Jesus did – we will too!

"Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this, Martha?" *John 11:25-26 NLT*

## Choosing To Die With Faith

"Free those who were like slaves all their lives because of their fear of death." *Hebrews 2:15 NCV*

- Death "a new adventure in existence"