

OUR RESURRECTION BODIES
THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST – PART 9
1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-42

OUR BODILY RESURRECTION IS A DIVINE PROMISE!

1. Gnostic philosophy believed the body was inherently **evil** and only the **spirit** to be good. Therefore, the resurrection of the body was **undesirable**.
2. Paul thoroughly addresses the dangers and fallacies in denying a **general** resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-34).
3. Paul anticipates the claim that a bodily resurrection is **impossible** and refutes the idea (1 Cor. 15:35).

KEY THOUGHT: Our God was able to **speak** the universe into existence. Why is it so difficult to believe He can **bodily** resurrect the dead (Acts 26:8; Gen. 1:1-5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20).

I. OUR BODILY RESURRECTION IS CONTINGENT UPON DEATH
(1 COR. 15:36-38).

- A. Death is the **first** necessary **step** to resurrection (1 Cor. 15:36).
 1. The seed planted in the ground decomposes and **ceases** to exist in its **present** form (John 12:24).
 2. If a person **escapes** death, he/she exists in an **inferior** state (1 Cor. 15:36; John 12:25).
 3. When Jesus was crucified and His **earthly** body died, it ceased to exist in an earthly form only to be resurrected to a **transformed** body (Luke 24:15, 31, 36; John 20:19).
- B. The harvest is **radically** different than the seed (1 Cor. 15:37).
 1. Unlike the **corn** seed whose final product is another grain of **corn**, the bodily resurrection of the saints produces a body that is no longer **depraved**.
 2. Jesus' resurrected body was radically **transformed** (John 20:19).

- C. God **chooses** to give us a **new** body representative of the **old** one (1 Cor. 15:38).
1. The new body will be **radically** changed, though appear in **similar** form.
 2. Other people could **recognize** Jesus after His bodily resurrection when He so allowed (John 20:15, 18; Luke 24:15-16, 30-31).

KEY THOUGHT: The Resurrection **plan** of God is detailed and complete to unfold in His timing in His own divine **manner** (1 Cor. 15:38).

II. OUR RESURRECTED BODIES WILL BE DIFFERENT THAN OUR EARLIER BODIES (1 COR. 15:39-42).

- A. **Flesh** comes in various categories, and Paul mentions four of them (1 Cor. 15:39).
- B. Each order of creation remains within the confines **assigned** to it (1 Cor. 15:40-41).
1. **Each** aspect of God's Creation has a **varied** nature and different characteristics.
 2. Each heavenly body has its different kind of **glory**.
- C. The Christian's body is completely unique in Creation because it is the **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** (1 Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 8:11, 23; Eph. 1:13-14).
1. The same body that was **buried** is not the one that will be **raised** (1 Cor. 15:42).
 2. The body is the same in identity, but it is not the same in **condition** (1 Cor. 15:53).

KEY THOUGHT: The body rising from the grave will be a **transformed** body **free** from earth's corruptible forces (Rom. 8:20-21).

FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH

March 27, 2011

SUNDAY: ***Our bodily resurrection and eternal life is assured (Acts 26:8)!*** Our bodily resurrection is a divine promise (1 Thess. 4:16)! In Corinth, Paul had been dealing with the Gnostic influences among Christians. Gnostic philosophy believed that the body was inherently evil, and only the spirit was good. Therefore, under this framework of thought, the resurrection of the body was undesirable. Paul has thoroughly addressed the dangers and fallacies of denying a general resurrection of believers (1 Cor. 15:12-34). Paul anticipates the claim that a bodily resurrection is impossible and refutes the idea (1 Cor. 15:35). Yet, our God is able to speak the universe into existence. Why is it so difficult to believe God can bodily resurrect the dead (Acts 26:8)? Thank God for your life with Him now! Praise Him for the assurance you will live with Him in eternity! ***May the assurance of your eternal security bring strength to your life that allows you to witness to others!***

MONDAY: ***Death is necessary for our resurrection (1 Cor. 15:36)!*** The seed is planted in the ground to die and decay to bring forth a massive harvest (John 12:24). Likewise, Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection assured the future harvest of multitudes that would be saved. If a Christian could escape death, he/she would exist in an inferior state (1 Cor. 15:36; John 12:25). The Christian life does demand death to self. What does that mean? Christians should dedicate their lives to the Lord and live for Him out of pure love. It is from freedom and love that a Christian chooses to serve the Lord God! The promise of what is to come has been revealed. When Jesus was crucified and His earthly body died, it ceased to exist in an earthly form only to be resurrected to a transformed body (Luke 24:15, 31, 36; John 20:19). Ask the Lord to help you stop fighting "death" to yourself in this life. Seek to live in freedom to invest your life out of love and a desire to honor Him. ***May this lesson transform your perspective and, therefore, your Christian walk!***

TUESDAY: ***The harvest is radically different than the seed (John 20:19)!*** There is a difference between the form of the seed planted and the harvest expected (1 Cor. 15:37). Unlike the corn seed whose final product is another grain of corn, the bodily resurrection of the saints produces a body that is no longer depraved. Look at the prototype. Jesus' resurrected body was radically transformed at His resurrection (John 20:19). Each Christian has already had the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus vicariously applied to their lives at the moment of conversion (Rom. 6:3-10). Transformation is in the DNA of a Christian. The life of a Christian should be radically different than the unbeliever. The bodies of each look the same in outward appearance, but completely different in nature. What a marvelous heritage! Praise the Lord for your salvation and then ask for strength to honor Him today with your life. ***May your understanding that you have been radically transformed take root and result in a transformed lifestyle!***

WEDNESDAY: ***Our resurrected body will be radically different than our bodies now, but will look similar (Luke 24:15-16)!*** God chooses to give us a new body representative of the old one (1 Cor. 15:38). The new body will be radically changed from what we have now, though appear in similar form (John 20:15, 18). Mary Magdalene did not recognize Jesus when she saw Him in

the garden after His resurrection. Jesus spoke to her, and she still did not recognize Him. Then Jesus revealed Himself to her, and she later could testify with honesty that she had seen Him resurrected. The travelers on the road to Emmaus did not recognize Jesus throughout a prolonged, involved conversation as they walked together (Luke 24:15-16). It was after the day had passed and they had all eaten the evening meal together that Jesus revealed who He was to them (24:30-31). They were so sure of their identification of Jesus that they immediately returned to Jerusalem and reported the sighting to the eleven disciples (24:33). Jesus' body was recognizable because the form was similar, but He was entirely a different creation. We have this to look forward to when we rise to meet Jesus as He returns. However, it should be true of us right now in our transformed earthly lives as Christians. Ask the Lord how you can begin to honor Him more often and more thoroughly with intentional thoughts, words, and actions. ***May others you bless in God's name recognize that you are different than those who do not claim the name of Christ!***

THURSDAY: *Creation retains its order at the second coming of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:39-41)!*

Our resurrected bodies will be different than our earthly bodies. The nature of creation will remain the same, but the resurrected bodies of the believers will be different (1 Cor. 15:39). Paul is pointing to the many different orders of creation. Each remains in its domain (1 Cor. 15:40-41). The heavenly bodies remain in the heavens, and the biological world of the earth remains intact. Man, the supreme act of God's creation, will be transformed through the mediation of Christ and the adoption by the Heaven Father into His divine family. Our motivation to serve God is not out of duty, but out of love and adoration. Our new heavenly bodies will equip us more thoroughly for the job. Are you honoring God now from a sense of love or out of duty? Ask for the wisdom to see God as a Heavenly Father and not a Divine Task Master. ***May your understanding of what it means to be a child of God transform your motivation to serve God from one of duty/obedience to love/adoration!***

FRIDAY: *The Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20)!*

The Christian's body is completely unique in Creation because it is the temple of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11, 23; Eph. 1:13-14). The same body that was buried is not the one that will be raised (1 Cor. 15:42). The body is the same in identity, but it is not the same in condition (1 Cor. 15:53). Our resurrected body will be transformed and completely changed though it may look the same. That is really something to get excited about! The conviction in my spirit is why do we all not get as excited about the "new man" we have become in Christ and how we are completely transformed though we look the same? Sit quietly with God to ask this question over and over until He shares with you what you are to do. ***May your earnest search bring a clear direction to your life for loving and serving Him and bring you peace, comfort, and joy!***

SATURDAY: *Our resurrected bodies will be transformed and free of earth's corruption (Rom. 8:20-21)!*

Man cannot achieve God's purpose for an incorruptible Creation because of his sin. God therefore placed a curse on the physical universe (Gen. 3:17-19), and until Jesus comes again, no part of creation can entirely fulfill God's original purpose (Rom. 8:20). When we receive our new bodies after our resurrection, the creation will be returned to the children of God to inhabit God's restored creation (Rom. 8:21). Ask God to let you serve Him now from the motivation of love. Ask where and how He would like you to bless His name. ***May your worship and service to God bring glory and honor to Him as it should!***