

## V. WHAT KIND OF BODIES SHALL RISE IN THE RESURRECTION?

The bodies with which we shall rise in the resurrection, will not only be human bodies, but it will be the very same bodies which we now have, and not other and different bodies created by Christ.

Job 19:26 Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;

1Co 15:51 - 53 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

It is, therefore, correct to say *I believe in the resurrection of the flesh.*

From the word resurrection itself, we may infer that the resurrection shall take place for nothing can rise again unless it has fallen. The justice of God establishes the same thing, namely, since the body executes what the soul prompts it to do, it is proper that both should come into judgment, and that both should either be punished or crowned with glory.

The justice of God demands that the bodies of the saints, which have fought so valiantly and endured so much injustices, should also be crowned with glory, and that the wicked be punished in the same bodies in which they have blasphemed, and opposed God.

Therefore, there will be restored, in the resurrection, to every soul, not a strange and different body, but its own proper body. It shall be crowned with glory, or with punishment and shame. Finally, as Christ rose with the same body which He had when He died, so shall we also rise with the very same body, which we now have.

What about 1Cor 15:50?

1Co 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

How can we claim that it would be these bodies and not newly created bodies, that will inherit the kingdom of God?

The terms flesh and blood as used here in 1Cor 15:50, signify the sinful and temporary qualities of the body; its fallen state.

So, the things to which the Apostle refers are fallen qualities that attached to the body and corrupted it. Remember, our bodies were created to last forever and we were meant to be immortal. When mankind separated itself from God, the giver of life, it lost its immortality and fell into mortality and evil. These qualities of the body shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Therefore, we will lose our corrupt state at our bodily deaths; we will be freed from sin at the grave and these bodies will rise again after having shed those that it acquired through sin.

As glorified and immortal, our bodies shall obtain an entrance into God's kingdom, which was accomplished by the blood of Christ.

1Cor 15:42 - 44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

But what does it mean when the Bible says, "*it is raised a spiritual body?*"

How can the body be spiritual and have the properties of flesh?

The apostle means by a *spiritual body*, not that our bodies would become ghosts, or that our bodies would become in all its properties equal to spirits, but our spiritual bodies would be ruled by the Spirit of God.

Rom 8:10 - 14 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.  
<sup>11</sup>But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells

in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. <sup>12</sup>So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh-- <sup>13</sup>for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

That's not a pie-in-the-sky promise, which we are asked to believe blindly, hoping that one day it would turn out this way. We have the ability, in this life, through the Holy Spirit, to live lives that are ruled by the Spirit of God. We are given the taste, the experience, of a Spirit-filled life, so that we have more than hope: we have certainty having tasted God's glory in Christ.

But, doesn't Scripture here refer to our souls when it says that it *is raised imperishable*? No, our bodies are bodies of flesh and bones, visible, tangible, and destructible, while our souls are immortal and without bodies.

Although subject to the soul, our bodies cannot be called spiritual because they are fraught with corruption and evil; hence they are not yet fully subject to the Spirit of God and as long as they remain so, they will be called *flesh and blood* and we should not confuse the immortality of our souls with the corruption of our bodies. Our bodies can only be called a spiritual body when they will be without corruption and not be able to resist the Holy Spirit.

God never asks us to believe blindly that which lies in our future lives. He graciously has given us not only the testimony of the many witnesses who testified about the resurrection of Christ (proving that we will also rise), but has given us personal proof, a foretaste of this Spirit-filled life which we will have; this body in which will be resurrected as spiritual bodies.

Our spiritual bodies would be immortal and free from all misery, adorned with heavenly splendor, glory, activity, strength and holiness. Our natural bodies would not be replaced but they would be quickened, made alive again.

That this is indeed the meaning of Scripture here, is proven by the following:

- a) Because he says it is raised a *spiritual **body*** and a spirit has no body.
- b) He also adds "*The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable*" which clearly signifies a substance other than a spirit.
- c) The body of Christ, after his resurrection, has flesh and bones and our bodies will be like that of Christ.

Rom 6:5 – 7 For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, <sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; <sup>7</sup>for he who has died is freed from sin.

Php 3:10, 11 ... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; <sup>11</sup>in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

## VI. HOW WILL THE RESURRECTION BE EFFECTED?

The resurrection will be accomplished openly, and gloriously, and not secretly nor hastily. It will be far different from that which occurred in relation to certain persons, when Christ rose from the dead. It will take place in sight of angels, men and devils, and will be a scene of inexpressible joy for the righteous, but of unutterable anguish, and horror for the wicked. Christ shall descend from heaven, accompanied by the angels, with a shout, with the voice of the Archangel, and with the trumpet of God, when all the dead shall awake and come forth from their graves, and stand before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. Those who will be alive at the coming of Christ shall be suddenly changed from a state of mortality to immortality, which change will be to them in the place of death, and the resurrection.

1Th 4:13 - 18 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve

as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup>For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1Co 15:51, 52 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honor; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

Act 24:15 ... having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

Joh 5:28, 29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup>and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

1Co 15:42, 43 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; <sup>43</sup>it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;

Php 3:20, 21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup>who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

## VII. WHEN WILL THE RESURRECTION TAKE PLACE?

The resurrection will take place at the end of the world, in the last day, according to Scripture:

John 6:44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

and

John 11:24-26 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, <sup>26</sup>and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

When the last day will arrive is not known. God alone knows when that day will arrive.

Mat 24:36 But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

Mark 13:32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

The main aim of this question is to restrain us from imagining or speculating when the resurrection will take place, so that we may not disturb our faith and begin to doubt when we find ourselves deceived in our vain conjectures.

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees and Sadducees to judge the *signs of the times* (Matt 16:2, 3) and the signs of the end time are *wars and rumors of wars*, (Matt 24:6) and other signs. (1John 2:18) Can we from this not determine that the end time is near? Yes we can, but we cannot calculate the time to be ready and await the Lord. We are admonished to be "...*self-controlled and alert. [Our] enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" (1Peter 5:8) "*Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.*" (Matt 24:42)

To play numerical games to determine the exact moment the Lord will return is to challenge God directly. It is an attempt to prove that man can, with human reasoning, uncover the knowledge God has retained for himself. We should be self-

controlled putting on faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

1Th 5:8-10 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

If the exact moment of the return of the Lord is known, how will faith remain? Will there be hope? No, God is very specific about this matter: "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." (Matt 24:36)

#### VIII. BY WHOSE POWER, OR THROUGH WHOM, WILL THE DEAD BE RAISED?

The resurrection of the dead will be effected by the power of Christ as the mediator.

John 6:40 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

It must be understood that Christ will raise up the body of each believer and not the soul, because the soul did not die. The man Christ will raise us by his human voice, and divine power.<sup>1</sup>

John 5:28, 29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup>and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Act 17:31 ...He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."

The purpose of this question is that our faith may be reinforced that Christ has sufficient power and is willing, seeing that He is Almighty God and our Head.



It is also a source of great comfort, from the fact that He will not be unmindful of his own flesh and members, but will raise them up to eternal life, for which purpose He assumed our nature and redeemed us.

If it is God that "*...raised Christ from the dead [and] also give[s] life to [our] mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in [us]*" (Rom 8:11), can we confess that we will be raised by the power of Christ? Yes, we can. The works of the Trinity performed upon creatures are common to all the persons of the Godhead, observing the order in which they operate.

As the Father is not excluded when the resurrection is ascribed to the Son, so the Son is not excluded when the Father or the Holy Spirit is said to raise the dead. The Father shall raise us mediately through the Son. The Son shall raise us immediately by his Spirit, as our redeemer and judge.

Php 3:20, 21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup>who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

John 5:21 For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.

The Holy Spirit shall raise us immediately by himself.

Rom 8:11 ...if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

## IX. FOR WHAT PURPOSE, AND TO WHAT STATE, WILL THE DEAD BE RAISED?

The ultimate purpose of the resurrection of the dead is the glory of God.

Glory, which God predestined from before the creation of the world, having set aside for himself a people who would glorify



him out of the desire of their hearts not coerced or under threat of punishment and death but who love him.

He will then manifest and exercise his mercy in its highest form in the glorification of the faithful, while his justice will be displayed in the damnation of the reprobate. He will then declare the certainty of his promises and threats in relation to both.

The next purpose of the resurrection is the salvation and glory of the elect, and the punishment and rejection of the reprobate. The former shall be raised to eternal life, while the latter shall come forth to everlasting punishment. This will be the state and condition to which the dead will be raised.

Dan 12:2 Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

John 5:28, 29 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, <sup>29</sup>and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Mat 13:41 - 43 The Son of Man will send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, <sup>42</sup>and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. <sup>43</sup>Then THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Mat 25:41, 46 Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;' <sup>46</sup>These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Rev 3:21 He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 7:13 - 17 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup>I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. <sup>15</sup>For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. <sup>16</sup>They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; <sup>17</sup>for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

If the resurrection of Christ is the cause of our resurrection, and our resurrection is the effect or benefit of Christ's resurrection, how will the wicked then be resurrected? The wicked will not rise because of the resurrection of Christ but they will be resurrected because of the just judgment of God, which judgment shall condemn them to everlasting punishment.

If Christ had not redeemed the elect, everybody would have been raised by the justice of God for everlasting punishment, but since God had elected that some would be saved, and offered his Son as their redeemer, the elect would rise because Christ, their head, rose. The rest will still be raised because of the justice of God.

The sole purpose of the resurrection is to glorify God, although there are different ways in which this glorification is accomplished.