

## **Series: The Next Life**

### **Title: "Receiving Your Glorified Body 1 Corinthians 15:32**

#### **Introduction**

Over the past few weeks, we have examined the biblical view of the afterlife. Today we will examine what happens to our physical body after death.

The Bible teaches that being human involves having a body. According to scripture, we are not delivered from our bodies but delivered from the effects of sin upon our bodies by a transformation to a perfect state.

Romans 8:23 says, "For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body." (Romans 8:22-23 NKJV)

Several scripture passages refer to the glorified body and answer basic questions about what happens to our bodies in the afterlife.

The first question to consider is, "What is a glorified body?"

#### **I. Describing the Glorified Body: What are they like?**

In the afterlife, our bodies will be like Jesus' resurrected body. 1 John 3:2 says, "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3:2 NKJV)

To get an idea of what our future resurrected bodies will be like, let's look at the appearances of Jesus in his glorified body following the resurrection.

After the resurrection, Jesus makes several appearances in His glorified body, giving us a view of what our future glorified bodies will be like.

The Apostle Paul tells us that this examination reveals two things.

First, there will be continuity with our present bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:35-38 says, "But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body." (1 Corinthians 15:35-38 NKJV)

The relationship between a seed and the plant that comes from it, are very different in shape and properties; however, they are still connected organically. A caterpillar undergoes a metamorphosis into a butterfly, but there is still an essential continuity. So it is with Christ's resurrected body. It was not an entirely new body,

or it wouldn't be called a "resurrected" body. The disciples recognized Jesus' glorified body which included:

- the holes in his hands and side (John 20:27),
- it was a real body with "flesh and bones" (Luke 24:39)
- he could eat food (Luke. 24:41-43).

Our glorified bodies will be similar to Jesus' glorified body, and they will be recognizable.

We will recognize our loved ones and other believers we never knew in this life. 1 Thessalonians 4:13 says, "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 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 by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV)

In our text, Paul tells us that our resurrected bodies will have vastly different properties and abilities than our physical bodies. 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 says, "So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption. 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. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." (1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NKJV)

Secondly, Paul teaches the believers at Philippi that Jesus will transform our physical bodies into bodies like his new resurrected body. In Chapter 3, he says, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." (Philippians 3:20-21 NKJV)

This transformation will free us from all physical imperfections and equip us for eternal life in God's eternal kingdom. Paul mentions four aspects of this transformation from physical to glorified bodies:

### **1. Our bodies will be transformed from Perishable to Imperishable:**

Our physical bodies are subject to congenital defects, disease, injury, and aging. The body is an amazing machine, but it is winding down from the moment we are born. Billions of dollars are spent every year to forestall and counteract this process through medicine or to try and hide it through cosmetics.

Our resurrected bodies will never malfunction, experience injury, or age. We will be able to eat, but we don't need to eat. 1 Corinthians 6 says, "Food is for the

stomach, and the stomach is for food, but God will do away with both of them. Yet the body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. Now God has not only raised the Lord but will also raise us up through His power." Our glorified bodies will be bionic in the truest sense of the word.

## **2. Our bodies will be transformed from Dishonor to Glorious:**

We were made in God's image and designed to display God's invisible greatness, not only morally but also visibly. Our glorified bodies will manifest God's glory just as a prism refracts colorless light into its bands or as angels radiate with God's glory.

In Chapter 10, Daniel the prophet said, " I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist *was* girded with gold of Uphaz! His body *was* like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words, I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground. Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and *on* the palms of my hands. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling." ([Daniel 10:5-11 NKJV](#))

Because of the Fall and sin, our bodies do not manifest God's glory as the angels do. But our resurrected bodies will! Somehow we will visibly manifest God's greatness and splendor.

Hebrews 2:7 implies that our new bodies will do this in a way that's even greater than angels' bodies do.

## **3. Our bodies will be transformed from Physical Limitations to Supernatural Power and Strength.**

Our physical bodies are subject to rather extreme physical limitations. Technology is designed to help us overcome our physical limitations. Of course, our new bodies will not be all-powerful, but they won't have the same limitations we now experience. Jesus' post-resurrection appearances make this clear. His physical body didn't disappear in the tomb; it was transformed in such a way that it passed right through the grave cloths, leaving them intact.

In John 20 it says, "Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw

and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead." (John 20:6-9 NKJV)

- Jesus could enter a room when the door was shut (John 20:9),
- vanish from sight while talking with others (Luke 24:30,31),
- and defy gravity in ascending from the earth (Acts 1:9).

#### **4. Our bodies will be transformed from Natural Bodies to Glorified Bodies.**

Paul calls our physical bodies "natural" or literally "soulish" bodies. He says they are "earthy" because they are suited for life only in this material reality.

But there is a supernatural reality beyond this visible natural realm that's unseen to us. It's like the dark side of the moon, which we know is there, but we can't see it because of our physical limitations.

Our new glorified bodies will be as real as our physical bodies, not immaterial or without form. Our glorified bodies will be "heavenly," like the bodies of the angels able to perceive and interact with life in the supernatural realm.

In Luke Chapter 20, Jesus said, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection." (Luke 20:34-36 NKJV)

How do I get one of these bodies?

## **II. Qualifying for a Glorified Body: How Do I Get One?**

Paul answers this question indirectly in verse 45 of 1 Corinthians 15.

"And so it is written, "THE FIRST MAN ADAM BECAME A LIVING BEING." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward, the spiritual. The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*."

(1 Corinthians 15:45-49 NKJV)

Paul tells us that Adam and Jesus are similar because they are both the original first persons of a race of humans. Adam's body was made of earthly materials, and those who descended from him also received earthly bodies. But Jesus' resurrected body is made of heavenly materials, and those who descend from him will receive heavenly bodies.

Body type is determined by descent. Those with earthly bodies are descendants of the first to have one—Adam. To get a new glorified body and enter God's kingdom, you must be a descendant of the first one to have a new glorified body—Jesus. That is what Jesus was telling Nicodemus in John Chapter 3. John writes, "There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him." Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' (John 3:1-7 NKJV)

If you want a new glorified body, you must be born physically ("of water" as in amniotic fluid, not water baptism); and then, you must also be born spiritually ("of the spirit"). Jesus goes on to explain how to be born spiritually. He says, " And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:14-17 NKJV)

None of us had any choice about being born physically. We had no input on what kind of body we were getting, or what family we would have, or even what country we would live in. But because God sent Jesus to die on the Cross for us, we can now choose to be born into God's family and experience God's love and forgiveness.

No matter how old you are, no matter how much you have ignored or rebelled against God, no matter how much of a mess you may have made of your life, you can still choose to start all over again in the most important way of all – by asking Jesus to give you a whole new life. A spiritual life! An Eternal life.

### **III. Obtaining A Glorified Body: When Do We Get Them?**

God wants an eternal relationship with us! That's why he's prepared to give you a new glorified body like Jesus' resurrected body. But when do we get them? The answer to that question is: When Jesus returns!

Read 1 Cor. 15:21-23 " For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming." (1 Corinthians 15:21-23 NKJV)

Paul adds some additional information in verses 51-53, "Behold, I tell you a

mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.”

(1 Corinthians 15:51-53 NKJV)

Those who have died will be resurrected and receive their new bodies at that time, and those still living will have their bodies changed instantaneously as we are caught up in the air to meet Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 4:17, “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 NKJV)

The spirit of a Christian who dies before Christ comes again goes to be consciously and personally with Christ in Heaven. In Luke 23:43, Jesus told one of the criminals who believed in him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43 NKJV)

We don't get our resurrected bodies until Christ returns. But when this happens, our salvation will be complete. 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 says, “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY.” “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING? O HADES, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY?” The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NKJV)

The same Jesus whose death delivers us from the guilt of our sins will deliver us from the consequence of sin and physical death.

## **Conclusion**

What difference does all this make now in this life? In verse 58 Paul says, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 15:54-58 NKJV)

“Therefore.” If you have received Christ and know you will overcome death, this knowledge should change how you live this life and give you eternal hope!