

# 1 Corinthians When Faith & Life Collide

Study 20

The Gospel and The Resurrection Part 2

1 Corinthians 15:35- 16:24

## A. Analogies from Creation for the Resurrected Body

### 1 Corinthians 15:35-44 (NIV)

But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor.

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.

### 1. a) Objective Question. Select all that apply. Which of the following is FALSE?

- A. Jesus was a man, not God
- B. Jesus was not physically resurrected
- C. The gospel as a historical event
- D. There are at least 500 witnesses of the Resurrected Jesus
- E. Apostles witnessed the Resurrected Jesus
- F. Jesus was a Jewish prophet with a mission of reconciliation
- G. Jesus was filled with divine inspiration
- H. Jesus' life is reflective of the divine potential in all of us
- I. Jesus' Resurrection is first fruits
- J. Resurrection is God's plan to bring all things under Christ
- K. Life is futile if there is no resurrection

**b) Fill in the blanks. According to the video slide, fill in the point of the agricultural analogy that Paul used to explain the resurrection.**

1	The seed is not made alive unless it dies.	1 Corinthians 15:36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.	There is a natural discontinuity
2	The seed planted is not the body that will come up from the ground.	1 Corinthians 15:37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.	It will look very different
3	God affects the transition between the seed and the plant.	1 Corinthians 15:38 But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.	Divinely directed Correspondence, God had predetermined what kind of resurrection body.

**c) Comprehension Question. According to the video slide, what's the point of the Terrestrial flesh analogy in 1 Corinthians 15:38-39?**

God has already so arranged the universe that there are bodies of all kinds adapted to their various existences...why can't he do the same for the resurrected body for its eternal existence?

**d) Comprehension Question. According to the video slide, what's the point of the Celestial bodies analogy in 1 Corinthians 15:40-41.**

Since the Corinthians recognize that heavenly bodies differ from earthly bodies, they should not expect the resurrected body to be a recycled earthly body.

**e) Fill in the Blanks. According to the video slide and verses, fill in the reasons Paul gave to show that resurrection is feasible using the seed analogy.**

Earthly Life -Soul		Resurrected Heavenly life... Spirit
What is sown is perishable	->Life ->	what is raised is imperishable
What is sown in dishonour	->Life ->	It is raised in glory
What is sown in weakness	->Life ->	It is raised in power
It is sown in a natural body	->Life ->	It is raised in a spiritual body

## B. The Example of the First and Second Adam

### 1 Corinthians 15:45-49 (NIV)

So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

### 2. a) Comprehension Question. Does a spiritual body mean it is not physical?

No, it is physical as well because Jesus' resurrected body is physical as seen in Luke 24:38-39 (NIV). He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

### b) Fill in the blanks. According to the video slide and verses, fill in the details and explanations of the resurrection when we are rebirthed (born again) in the same way as the Second Adam (Jesus).

First Adam		Second Adam (Jesus)
The first man was from the earth, a man of dust;	Origin	The second man is from heaven.
As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the	Representative	And as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven

dust,		
Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust,	Fate	We shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

### C. The Need for Resurrection

#### 1 Corinthians 15:50 (NIV)

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

#### 3. Discussion Question. Why is there a need for a resurrection body?

Putting in my own words, there will probably be different biology, chemistry, and physics rules (eg. no decay) in the new heaven and new earth, so our new body would reflect that new earth's rules.

### D. The Mechanism of Resurrection

#### 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 (NIV)

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.

#### 4. Reflection Question. How do you feel about having a new body for a new place?

### E. The Spiritual Implications for Us

#### 1 Corinthians 15:55-58 (NIV)

“Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He

gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**5. Reflection Question. After explaining the resurrection, Apostle Paul advises us as brothers and sisters in Christ to: “stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” Do you feel motivated after listening to the prospect of resurrection? Why or why not?**

#### **F. Summary of 1 Corinthians 16:1-24**

- V 1-4 Collection for Jerusalem
- V 5-11 Travel plans to visit them after Macedonia, plans to stay in Ephesus for the time being as evangelistic opportunities and opposition
- Welcome Timothy
- V 12-23 Parting instructions

**6. Reflection Question. 1 Corinthians 16:22 says “If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!” How does that make you feel?**

#### **Takeaway**

**Apostle Paul explains the spiritual and physical resurrection using creation analogies, the second Adam concept, our need for the resurrection, the mechanism of the resurrection, and how knowing them should affect us in our daily living.**

#### **Case Study**

##### **Case 1 – Physical and Spiritual Resurrection**

Ngoo See Teck has been a Christian for 20 years. He believes that when we die, we will be floating spirits in heaven.

**1. a) Discussion question. You are the life group leader of See Teck, what would you say to him?**

**b) Discussion question. Which verses do you find most compelling to explain the physical resurrection?**