

# Strengthened by God's Word

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

"Raised in Glory"—April 17, 2022



### **Introduction**

Many people in the 1st century were trying to discredit the resurrection. Paul doesn't treat it like a vulnerable truth though. He is inviting the skeptic to investigate it. The resurrection is so important that Paul says if there is no resurrection, then Christianity collapses.

Jesus' resurrection was a resurrection of His body. And if Jesus has risen - the corpse of the believer will rise as well! This shapes not only how we die but how we live today. If we have no hope of the resurrection and this life is it, then the best we can do is enjoy the pleasures of the world today. You will never find contentment and joy in the things of the world. We are made for more. We are made for God. Our hearts are restless until we find our rest in God.

### **Pray**

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

### **Sermon Outline**

1. The resurrected body is reasonable. Vs. 36-44
2. The resurrected body is certain. Vs. 45-49
3. The resurrected body is necessary. Vs. 50-58

### **Read & Discuss**

#### **1) Read 15:36-44**

Paul talks about different kinds of "bodies" in [vs. 36-42](#). His point in these analogies is this: In the resurrection, you will still be you, but your body will be transformed and glorified. You will be made fit for the new heavens and the new earth.

Since God is the Creator of all things, then He is more than able to raise the dead and give them a transformed body. It doesn't matter what has happened to your body that results in death. This is why Paul calls the skeptic "a fool." They ignore God's power. They look at the problem as if God doesn't exist. It is the fool who says in his heart, "there is no God." ([Psalm 14:1](#))

Have you ever considered why it is reasonable to have a resurrected body? What are some other examples in scripture in which God's power is on display?

**Additional Reading:** *Genesis 1 and 2*

#### **2) Read 15:45-49**

Here, Paul sets up a contrast between the first Adam and the Last Adam. The first represents humanity. His decision to rebel, plunged all of humanity into futility. We resemble this now. Our bodies break down, get sick and eventually die. However when a person trusts in Jesus, they get new representation. By faith, we are united to Christ. The first Adam no longer represents the Christian. Jesus is our new, covenantal representative head. Jesus makes certain that the Christian will receive a glorified body just like His.

What will our glorified body be like? Look at Jesus' resurrected body. Read the gospel accounts of the resurrection and what followed. He had flesh and bones. He walked and talked with His friends. He ate meals. He had a body, but it was different than before the resurrection.

Now, our bodies are perishable, but our glorified bodies will be raised imperishable. They will not break down or get sick! Imperishable bodies are eternal bodies. They will never to die.

Imagine waking up tomorrow and every inclination of your heart is good. With the glorified body, our hearts will be filled with love and delight for God. It will be filled with the fruit of God's Spirit.

How was Jesus' body the same as it was before the resurrection? How was it different? (Parents, take some time to brainstorm this with your children.) What trials, suffering, and trouble have you faced or are facing now that have made you rely on Jesus more?

**Additional Reading:** Romans 5:12-2; Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20 & 21; Galatians 5:22-23

### 3) Read 15:50-58

Why is the resurrected body necessary?

-A perishable body dies. God's kingdom is eternal.

-Our bodies cannot withstand God's amazing glory. When transformed, we will see Him as He is. [1 John 3:2](#)

-God's plan of redemption is not limited to the spiritual realm.

Death is an enemy. In the beginning, God created a good world with no death. The resurrection reminds us that God never gave up on His original plan. God is so good, sovereign, and powerful that He is able to redeem His creation and transform it into something better. The resurrection promises that all of our sorrow, suffering and sinful failure is momentary.

When life is tough, Paul calls us to be steadfast. We do this together. In light of the resurrection, abound in the work of the Lord. Proclaim the Gospel; build up the church, and live a life in obedience to God. This side of glory, things will be frustrating. Remember, in light of the resurrection, your obedience to God and reliance on Him is never in vain

How does the promise of the resurrection shape how you live today? Do you ever feel like death is winning? Does it feel like suffering will last forever? With whom can you share your struggles for accountability and encouragement?

**Additional Reading:** Exodus 33:17-23; Romans 8:22-23; Hebrews 9:27

### Prayer of Response

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I understand, believe, desire, or do?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at

<https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

<b>*Next week's sermon text:</b> we turn to <a href="#">Ephesians 2</a> "One New Man"
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