



The Mystery of the Deathless Resurrection

Lesson 12 • 1 Corinthians 15:50-57

1 Corinthians 15:35 Lays Out the Two Most Common Questions Regarding the Resurrection of Believers:

#1 HOW ARE the dead raised up?

#2 WHAT KIND of bodies will we have?

“How can a sin-cursed, rotting corpse be worthy of being raised up to live in the presence of the risen King?”

Paul’s Answers to the Most Common Questions/Objections about Our Bod from God as Believers

1. ILLUSTRATIONS from the OLD Creation. (36-44)

- **The Seed Sowing Illustration:** A seed is sown but sprouts up as the same but different. (vv. 36-38)
 - 1) Death is not the end of the believer’s body, but a logical TRANSITION to a new one!
 - 2) Decay of a believer’s body is not a problem, because resurrection is a TRANSFORMATION to a different kind of body!
 - 3) Design of the believer’s resurrected body is left up to the Creator who gives everything a body TAYLOR-MADE for its own unique place and purpose in His creation!

- **The Different Bodies Illustration:** Different kinds of bodies are designed for different places and purposes. (vv. 39-44)
 - 1) Paul draws on illustrations from the entire creation to show that God designs different *kinds* of bodies for different *places* to *reflect* different *kinds* of glory and even different *degrees* of glory. (39-41)
 - 2) Paul applies both illustrations to our resurrection from the dead in Christ. (42-44)

Vs.	THE DEAD IN CHRIST ARE IN TRANSITION TO A TRANSFORMATION BY RESURRECTION!	
42	Sown in CORRUPTION	Raised in INCORRUPTION
43	Sown in DISHONOR	Raised in GLORY
43	Sown in WEAKNESS	Raised in POWER
44	Sown a NATURAL BODY	Raised a SPIRITUAL BODY

What Is Paul Trying to Get Us to See?

- With the **Seed Sowing Illustration** the stress is on resurrection **and** CONTINUITY. (36-38)
*The believer’s dead body is buried to rise up **transformed** but still the same body!*

- With the **Different Bodies Illustration** the stress is on resurrection **and** SUITABILITY. (39-44)
*The believer’s dead body is buried to rise up **transformed** to live in the new conditions of the New Creation!*

2. EXPLANATIONS from the NEW Creation in Christ. (45-50)

Vs.	FIRST Adam’s Body Designed for the OLD CREATION	SECOND Adam’s Body Designed for the NEW CREATION
45	Created to be a LIVING SOUL	Raised to be/give a LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT
46-47	FIRST a body made from and suited for <i>the earth</i>	THEN a body made from and suited for <i>heaven</i>
48-49	NOW our created bodies bear the image of the <i>“earthy” First Adam</i>	NOT YET do have our resurrected bodies that will bear the image of the <i>“heavenly” Second Adam</i>

3. The REVELATION of the Necessary Transformation. (50-53)

"Now I say this..." (NAS95); "I declare to you..." (NIV11); "This is what I am trying to get across to you..." (Mine)

Why Is This Transformation is Necessary? (50, 53)

- 1) Because what is capable of physically **DYING** is not able to joyfully receive what is eternal and incapable of ever dying!
- 2) Because what is capable of physical and moral **DECAY** is not able to joyfully receive what is incapable of ever decaying physically and morally!

BODIES BURIED IN THE OLD CREATION ARE...	BODIES RAISED FOR THE NEW CREATION ARE...
Made of Flesh and Blood and Cannot Live Forever in the Holy Presence of the Sinless King and His Kingdom	Made to Live Forever in the Holy Presence of the Sinless King and His Kingdom
Mortal (Able to Die)	Immortal (Never Able to Die)
Perishable (Able to Decay and Be Destroyed by Sin)	Imperishable (Never Able to Decay or Be Destroyed by Sin)

How Necessary Is This Transformation? (50, 53)

- 1) What is mortal and perishable is **NOT ABLE** to inherit the Kingdom of God. (50)
- 2) What is mortal and perishable **MUST PUT ON** what is immortal and imperishable to inherit the Kingdom of God. (53)



How Will This Transformation Take Place? (51-52)

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed..." (51)

- 1) By a radically **RAPID** transformation (52a)
"in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet;"
- 2) By **RESURRECTION from** the dead! (52b)
"for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable"
- 3) By **RAPTURE of** the living! (52c)
"and we will be changed."
- 4) According to the **REVELATION** of a mystery that God never revealed in the Old Testament! (51)
"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed..."

This Is a Mystery Never Before Revealed

*Not all church age believers will die, but ALL will be **CHANGED/TRANSFORMED!***

1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We will be reunited with our transformed bodies at the return of our resurrected Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, whether by the resurrection of the dead in Christ or by the rapture of the living in Christ!

Five Takeaways

- 1) Don't reject the truth of **bodily resurrection** or **rapture transformation** just because we don't fully understand how it will all happen! (vv. 35, 51-52)

- 2) Only "fools" (= unbelievers) will **deny the revealed truth** of the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the rapture of the living in Christ. (v. 36)
- 3) Death **does not hinder or is even necessary** for God to achieve His victory in us through Christ Jesus. (vv. 54-57)
- 4) Salvation, resurrection, and the rapture are **all about transformation** and it is a process that should **already be taking place** in every true believer. (v. 51; 2Corinthians 3:18; 4:4, 6)
- 5) Living for the Lord is **never in vain**, because every believer will one day stand before the Lord in a transformed body to be rewarded in His coming Kingdom, **whether by resurrection or rapture!** (v. 58)