

## Introduction

In the Corinthian church, there were people saying, “There is no resurrection of the dead.” Paul anticipates those who have questions about the resurrection and answers two questions:

“How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” (15:35)

### 1. How are we raised?

#### (1) Through death

- Just as a seed must be sown in the ground and become like it has died before it can sprout as new life, we also experience death and receive new life.
- Death is a passageway to receiving resurrection life.

#### (2) By God’s sovereignty and work

- The resurrection is not accomplished by human power, but by God’s sovereign rule and work.
- God has given each creature a body suited to it (human beings, animals, fish, birds, the sun, the moon, the stars).
- God will give us a body with which we can live fittingly in heaven (the kingdom of God).

### 2. With what kind of body are we raised?

#### (1) Contrast between the earthly body and the resurrection body (15:42–44)

- Perishable → Imperishable: an eternal body completely freed from sickness, aging, and death.
- Dishonorable → Glorious: from a body marked by sin’s nature to a body that reflects the radiance of Christ.
- Weak → Powerful: from a body with fatigue and limitations to a body filled with the power of God.
- Natural body → Spiritual body: from a body ruled by natural desires to a body perfectly led by the Holy Spirit.

## (2) A spiritual body

- The resurrection body is a body whose life is the Holy Spirit Himself.
- It is the perfect body—never sinning and able to shine with the glory of God.

## (3) The first Adam and the last Adam (15:45–49)

- The first Adam: became a living being (earthly life).
- The last Adam (Christ): became a life-giving Spirit.
- Those who believe in Christ belong to the Spirit and are being made like Christ.
- Through the resurrection we will fully bear the image of Christ (15:49).

## (4) The resurrection body is necessary

- “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God” (15:50).

## Conclusion

1. **What resurrection is:** a great transformation in which, with death as a passageway, God’s sovereign power grants us life and a body fitting for the kingdom of God.
2. **The new body:** a “spiritual body” that is not ruled by sin or death, reflects the glory of Christ, and is strong and fitting for the kingdom of God.

## Application

- Let us not become discouraged when we see our weakness and lack on earth.
- The Lord has prepared a glorious body for us.
- As those who already belong to heaven, we are being changed day by day to be like Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- When we walk in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can taste in advance the joy of the resurrection body.
- The resurrection body is for inheriting the kingdom of God. Let us become people who taste the joy of God’s kingdom even on earth.