

“New Life”

I Cor. 15: 35-38

The Resurrection is the Cornerstone of our faith. It is real. Jesus rose bodily from the dead and became the first-fruits, or the prototype, of all who would follow in faith (I Cor. 15: 20). It is the hope of the believer.

This body will return to the ground one day, but it won't end there. Our spirits will go to be with the Lord who purchased us with His blood. But He didn't just purchase our spirits. He purchased our bodies as well.

At the appointed time, those bodies in the ground will hear his voice and come forth, raised to life again (John 5: 25-29).

The words of Jesus in John 5 show us that there is not only a resurrection of our bodies to come in the future, but we have already passed from death to life spiritually.

This lets us know there is a dual understanding of resurrection. It applies to the future as well as to our lives today.

The resurrection should affect how we live. Some things in our lives must die so we can walk in newness of life (Rom. 6: 4). Our new birth is as a seed (I Pet. 1:23), and will grow despite the many obstacles that come against it.

In the passage above in I Cor. 15, we are presented with the glorious truth of Christ's resurrection and how it is the foundation of our faith. We are also shown ways it should apply to our lives (v. 34).

Paul mentions a general principle in this passage that is very powerful. It can be missed if we don't notice it carefully. It is in verses 36-38. He says what we sow is not made alive until it dies. Though the context is bodily resurrection, it has a dual meaning. If we follow it, it can change our lives.

1. Let go of the past (v. 36)

There are things in our lives we must allow to die. It's the only way to embrace the future. We can't change until the old is surrendered (Phil. 3: 13).

2. Sow into the future (v. 37)

This requires planting what we have right now, so it can go through the process of death and return in a superior form. We can do this in several ways:

- a. Renew our minds (Rom. 12: 2)
- b. Walk in newness of life (Rom. 6: 4)
- c. Serve in newness of spirit (Rom. 7: 6)

3. Trust God for the results (v. 38)

New life will emerge, in God's time, first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear (Mark 4: 28-29). It takes time. It is a process. It is difficult. But the end will be worth it.

The new life will be a transformed one. One person's future will not look like another's (v. 38), but all will be changed.