

Spirituality – 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

³⁵But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?” ³⁶Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other *grain*. ³⁸But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

³⁹All *flesh* is not the same flesh, but *there is one kind of flesh* of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, *and* another of birds.

⁴⁰*There are* also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial *is* one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial *is* another. ⁴¹*There is* one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for *one* star differs from *another* star in glory.

⁴²So also *is* the resurrection of the dead. *The body* is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. ⁴³It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. ⁴⁴It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. ⁴⁵And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

⁴⁶However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. ⁴⁷The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *Man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man*.

Open: What do you think the phrase “eternal life” means?

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

1. What questions are being asked in v. 35?
2. What comparison is being made between a *body* and *grain*? (vv. 36-38)
3. In what ways can *flesh* be different? (v. 39)
4. The word *glory* appears five times in vv. 40-41. What are the different kinds of glory?
5. Verses 42-45 brings things together. Write down the differences between how the body is *sown* and how it is *raised*.
6. How are the first man Adam and the last Adam described? (v. 45)
7. Those contrasts in v. 45 are expanded on in vv. 46-49. List the ways the natural and spiritual differ.

Apply

- Have you ever thought about what happens to a person when he dies?
- How have you seen the contrasts between the *flesh* and *spirit* in your own life?
- Does thinking about a future resurrection/life after death affect the way you live now?

When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh.”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer