

THE EFFECT OF BODILY RESURRECTION ON THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

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Greetings! It is an honor to bring you the Grace message once again! The Gospel of God's grace is the goodness wherewith God has influenced us and the good act of righteousness that He had towards man in bringing man His life. He's come to solve our problems and the biggest problem that He has come to solve is our mortality problem. People didn't even think that it was a problem but that was the true problem. He came to solve it by entering into death, conquering sin, and raising the Man Jesus from the dead. He then put this man Jesus at the right hand of the Father from where He rules over our lives and over the world establishing exactly what is inside Him in this world so that whosoever believes upon Him can share in His quality of life. This is what this is all about.

Thank you for allowing me to 'wash your feet' again today and serve you with the Gospel of God's grace. The vision I have is to always to preach Grace here, seeing that people are being taught, educated and established in this message of Grace and to never deviate from it. I want to stay in this Gospel for the rest of my life, by the power of His Grace.

PRAYER: Father, I want to thank You so much for Your kindness and Your goodness! Thank You for speaking powerfully through me today and impacting people's lives, as well as my life, as You share this Good News, through me, with people and even with myself. Thank You for a heart that can feel and understand, eyes that are open to see the dimensions of Your love and Your goodness. Amen and amen

TODAY'S MESSAGE: We are in a series where we are speaking and preaching through Romans. Last week we started to get into the message. It's called, THE EFFECT OF BELIEVING YOU WILL BE BODILY RAISED IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER.

So many times, we wonder, "If there is a bodily resurrection at the end of time, how does that relate to me today? What relevance does that have in the here and now? What does it mean for me today or is it just something that I know will take place one day?" Well, it is something that will take place one day and last week we saw that it has a great effect on us in the here and now. Outside of the supernatural power that there is in the Resurrection and in our union with God in Christ, there is simply just the normal basic effect that a futuristic event has on all people.

With this coronavirus pandemic, we have seen how that influences our lives. People went to the shopping malls and they bought a lot of stuff. They were prepping. There

were so many things going on. Everything changed. Your kids aren't allowed to go to school. You can't travel at night. So many things have happened and our lives would change today in the fear of what can happen with us.

If we, today, have our lives born from what can happen, as pertaining to the negative, pertaining to a virus that a week ago we did not have a cure for, how much more will it not have an effect on us should we know that we can bodily live forever on account of Jesus fulfilling His promise of eternal life to us? You see, Church, that is not even being part of the Church's thought. The Church has never even thought about things like that. Now, you might say, "Bertie, I have always believed in a bodily resurrection." Yes, we've believed in a bodily resurrection but the issue is that we have not based all of our theology on that as what everything we do today is based. Now I am talking about just in general in countries. Everything they do today is basically based on the coronavirus. All this will blow over and we all know that but everything we do now or in the next three weeks or month, no travel between Europe and the United States. South Africa closed a lot of their border posts. Kids are not allowed to go to school. All universities are closed. Meetings larger than a hundred people are not allowed. You are basically not allowed to have church meetings. There are so many things that you are not allowed to do. Our lives are born from something that can happen in the future.

As we have looked at what can happen in the future with coronavirus and we now have shaped our lives around that, how much more if we really believed that we can be raised from the dead? That salvation is defined in God coming and healing our bodies and removing sin in the flesh from the body therefore providing us a sinless, deathless flesh wherein we can live forever and be partakers of His kingdom, sharing in His life. I mean, should that be the reality that we believe, I am sure it would change the way we live. Just inside the parameters of the normal knowledge, like you taking knowledge, you are aware there will be a coronavirus and now you're shaping your life, how much more is we just aware that they will be eternal life. How will that not shape our lives?

You see, the problem in the Church is that we have already believed that everybody has eternal life as immortal souls that live in bodies. Therefore, the whole punch was taken out of the Gospel by saying, "Well, the Gospel is basically offering something that we already have, which is then this eternal life." Eternal life is then redefined in what you feel, what you think and relationships and all those kind of things instead of the normal thing and what it means and eternal life... to be part of the eternal age for you've entered into a place where there is no beginning and no end, where you share in the quality of God's life as a human.

You see, we have had a wrong understanding of many things. We didn't understand what we are as humans neither that we understand how long we can live. I think that the biggest understanding is we didn't know what we are. Then we had a wrong understanding of what eternal life really is.

Last week we spoke about the effect that the resurrection will have on the Believer, should he believe. But that can only be true and will have its maximum effect when we first believe that we are mortal beings and if you believe that you are a human being. If

you define a human being not as a non-material soul that lives in a body but as a human. You know all of us have loved ones that have passed away. When they pass away, we think, and for many years thought, they are in a better place.

To a certain aspect they are definitely in a better place because, as believers, they have died and are at a place where they are awaiting the resurrection of Jesus. They are with the Lord awaiting the resurrection. Now, exactly what "with the Lord" means and how that looks, we don't know. I have not been to a place called heaven and I have not seen for myself, just if I must be completely honest, I know that Jesus is in heaven. I do believe that the Bible clearly says, "Our Father which art in heaven..." So, there is a heavenly realm, a spiritual realm, from where all these things happen. That is all true but the beauty is that God has not come to bring man to a place where we have to abandon the material world to experience the heavenly power. The heavenly power has been designed to be infused into the physical and where heaven comes to Earth. Like the prayer is, "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come..." Not us leave... but Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And we find that this hope that we have, as the Church, is the hope of everything that is in heaven that it should manifest in earth.

And the place where we see this with us, where this has already taken place, is in the Resurrected Jesus Christ. The Resurrected Jesus Christ is exactly how it looks when heaven has come to Earth or, if you want to use the other way around, if Earth has reached the state of life contained in heaven. It is a physical body that has maybe died and then was raised, having no bones in the grave, and that is now fully sharing, having the fullness of the Godhead bodily. We find that that is God's dream for all of us. So, Church, as a start, if we can believe that we are mortal, in need of eternal life, like Romans 2:7 says that where we are seeking immortality and those who, through patience, have sought this immortality, glory and honor, they shall be rewarded with eternal life.

So, what do we seek? What do we want? We want what God has manifested in the Resurrected Jesus and we seek that that manifests in our lives. So, what is the desire of the Christian? The desire of the Christian, the desire of the early Christians was, they were groaning. They were waiting. They were, every day, expecting the salvation of their bodies which would then be the glorification of the body. They were seeking that the fullness of the will of God manifests in them, which would then be the adoption, this glorification. And from there they received the Spirit that would then bring that forth and from that Spirit, through the new life that people were living by that Spirit, their lives were crying, "Abba Father!" God is now the Father of my good works. God is now the Father of my kindness. God is now the Father of the compassion that is inside me.... The relentless tenderness that is flowing from my heart feeling compassion for people. God is now the author of even the concern that I have when people are not believing in this Good News. All of a sudden, God becomes the source from where I share the Gospel with people. It is not anymore me looking at the Bible and looking at a command that I must go and make disciples and then now I am making the disciples. No, all of a sudden everything has changed. God has now become the Father!

With this in mind, we come to the conclusion that without the bodily resurrection of Jesus and our expectation of bodily resurrection, we would not be able to call ourselves the righteousness of God. We would not be able to define why we have the fruit of the Spirit.

Definition of fruit of the Spirit, the definition to the body of Christ, the Church, is all given in the light of the bodily resurrection of Jesus and the hope that we have to have the same.

You see the Church, and I know that I am going over this again, but I think it's very important. I see people that have been listening to my messages for many years, even in this last week, writing me, emailing me, giving me a question saying, "So, Bertie, are you saying that, at the end of the day, it's not about heaven but it's about a bodily resurrection?" Yes, that is what I have been saying for the last six years. I have been preaching along those lines all the time. So, I feel it is necessary to repeat that just for some folk who maybe just didn't get it. And I don't think that people don't get it because there is something wrong with them. I just think it is difficult to hear something outside of the parameters wherein we were taught all our life. We were taught that we were immortal souls that live in bodies. We weren't taught that we were humans and then we taught that God's destination for man is to go to heaven and be there with Him, either worshipping Him or living in a mansion, or whatever we would think. We refer to our bodies as dirtbags which I will just leave and I'm going to receive another body. There is such a mixture of Gnosticism in the Church that it is difficult for people to truly understand.

What I want to say is, "We have to redefine all our terms but in the light of defining salvation not as going to heaven but reaching eternal life **bodily** being saved from death. In the days of His flesh, Jesus cried out to God who was able to save Him. And was Jesus saved? If Jesus asked for salvation, it means He needs salvation. What was Jesus saved from? He was saved from the grave for the Bible says that He shall not see that His Holy One suffers corruption. And He raised Him from the dead ... saved Him from death itself and now we have the message of salvation that we can preach ourselves. The Spirit that shall manifest this salvation is therefore now poured out in our hearts.

Last week we talked about what it means to walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit simply means that I am beholding the bodily raised Jesus. Then this life that shines forth from Him shines in my heart and I have the revelation that the glory of God is now shining in the face of Jesus. That revelation in me affects my life and that is called the power of the Holy Spirit. That is exactly what it is.

2 Corinthians 3:

Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord (If we turn away from the law but you look at perfection in the flesh as pertaining to Jesus seated at the right hand of God), **the veil shall be taken away.** I used the coronavirus mask... the mask is taken away and as you now behold the Resurrected Jesus without a mask, without the law, then you are able to contract the same "eternal life" virus that Jesus has.

18 *But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass (mirror) the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit (the very life) of the Lord.* The very life of Jesus Himself!

He says, "When we behold the Resurrected Jesus, the effect that it will have on us is that the life that is in Jesus, the Spirit of Christ, will then be poured out on all flesh, on my flesh, for the purpose of healing me from whatsoever leads to death. That is what it is about. From there, I also now have the fruit of the Spirit on the foundation of beholding an immortal man, expecting the same.

The bottom-line conclusion is this: What relevance does the message that I will be bodily raised one day, have today? From the revelation that would be true seeing yourself in the life of Jesus and united with Him, seated with Him, expecting to have that same bodily resurrection, from there all life flows. From there, we have the ability to prophesy. From there, we have the words of knowledge and wisdom. From there we can love one another. From there we see there is no more Jew or Gentile. From there we can conclude and see and understand the Gospel that the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans. From there we have kindness and love towards one another. From there we refrain to try and save ourselves by our own works. From there we are delivered from Gnosticism and its ugly head that is surfacing again in the world. From there we see the salvation plan for what it truly is. From there we see that we are the temple of the Almighty God. From there we see and define ourselves as the body of Christ. It does have a massive relevance in our lives today!

When we behold the glory of God, we are beholding as in a mirror. As we see the glory of God which is the eternal life of God shining in the face of a man, Jesus, we are saying, "If the human Jesus, who was born of a woman, the man Jesus, (I'm not talking about the incarnation. I'm talking about the Man Jesus now.) ... if that Man who, was subject to sin and death, could contract eternal life and He has then breathed on humanity, it simply means that we can get the same. We believe that we got the same in the fact that He was raised from the dead. Glory to God!

With that in mind, defining, being in the Spirit as looking at the bodily raised Jesus, it also is expecting bodily resurrection. That's what it means to be in the Spirit. We can say the following: (Now we are getting into the message of Romans 8.)

Romans 8:

12 *Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.*

13 *For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.*

14 *For as many as are led (brought forth) by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*

He is saying, "Listen, guys, we cannot go back to Judaism. We cannot go back to the law. We cannot go back to even thinking we are special because we are Gentiles or we are Jews. We are not special in our flesh. We cannot make any drawing from our flesh

as pertaining to life, or customs of Moses, or any of those kinds of things. THERE IS NOT LIFE THROUGH THE LAW! But, since Jesus was raised from the dead and we see that He is alive, **bodily**, by the Holy Spirit, He now has a spiritual body. That means that He has a physical body that is not living by the food he eats or the breath He has.

You know when Jesus was raised from the dead, He wasn't alive because He breathed the air of this world. He was first alive because of the Spirit and then He breathed. He doesn't have to take another breath to live forever in His body. He doesn't have to eat food, at all, to live in His body. He is alive, bodily, on account of the very life of God. In Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily. That is called a spiritual body. Jesus doesn't become a Spirit. His body is spiritual meaning His body, as He received eternal life. Now, we who are spiritual, we who behold that truth and we walk in the Spirit, we are having our walk and our wandering around inside this wonderful truth that the Spirit that has given life to the flesh of Jesus, we mortify the deeds of the flesh by the very same life that is in Christ.

13 For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit (But if we, through the life that's in the flesh of Jesus, as we behold this resurrected Jesus and expect the same for us, we will, by looking at that and believing that, find that that life that is in Jesus starts to **mortify** (kill, declare as dead) **the deeds of the body** (The sins in the flesh), **you shall live.**

Paul is saying, "First you thought that you are going to have life by the law and have your behavior changed into something that is good and better, by the law. But I've got news for you. That's not how it works. This good works, a holy life, is what we are to have. The law points to a holy life that is good and well but, the way where we will find it is by beholding a spiritual body or a resurrected, physical, human, from where we expect the same by Him. As we expect the same by Him, we find that the Spirit, the very life of the Christ in the flesh, now becomes a life in our flesh and mortifies the fruit of the flesh in us simply as we behold and expect this truth. Should the question be, "What relevance does the expectation of a bodily resurrection, in the end, have on us today?" My answer would be from that truth, from that cognitive explanation, is where we get the power to live a holy life. Glory to God! Isn't that absolutely powerful!

Now I want to go to **Colossians 2:6** which basically says the very same thing. **As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in him:**

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men (Beware lest anybody spoil you by going back to the Old Law, and also going back to Greek Philosophy, and all those spirit/soul/body teachings. That is what Paul has in mind here.), **after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.**

Now listen to what Paul says about why we don't have shortcomings today.

9 For in him (the Resurrected Jesus) **dwells all** (not some) **the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

10 And you are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Can you see where Paul draws his conclusion of our completeness and we don't need any more to walk after the law or any of those things having a sin consciousness anymore? He draws it from the revelation that the fullness of the Godhead is in Jesus **bodily**. That means if Jesus did not have a physical body raised from the grave, seated at the right hand of God, he would not have been able to make this conclusion.

11 In whom also you are circumcised (Now listen to this: In the fact that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead, **you are circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:**

He is saying that the relevance for today of the bodily resurrection of Jesus from where we also expect bodily resurrection (We are going to read that now in Chapter 3) and as we continually behold that life expecting bodily resurrection ourselves, we are circumcised with a circumcision not made with hands but a circumcision where we have now laid down the body of sins of the flesh. That means that I am not living anymore inside the place where I have a body of the sins of the flesh, for I moved now to the body of the resurrection expecting my bodily glorification. Since I live there and this life of Christ includes me, from that life I find that the fruit of the flesh stops and I start to have a holy life as a free gift.

Therefore, a holy life is not a prerequisite to salvation but it is salvation and the end of that salvation is glorification of our bodies.

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God (So how are we raised? We are raised through the faithfulness of God's operation), **who hath raised him from the dead**

So, the operation of God, which is to raise mortal flesh from the grave and make it immortal. That operation and our trust in that operation and in the faith and the faithfulness of that meaning the fact that it works, through that what happens to us, we are raised from the dead. We are experiencing a brand new life.

Let's read it again.

11 In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands... In other words, it says here that in Jesus dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily. Since he dwells in him bodily, what does it mean for us? It means that as we

believe upon that, we find that God ends sin in our flesh because the problem is flesh. It is not that we have flesh but death in the flesh. So, the only solution could be a resurrection, a recreation or a new creation. Lazarus was recreated when he was raised from the dead but we are not recreated. We are a new creation, a creation that cannot be subject to sin and death.

Jesus was raised from the dead and now it says, **as he was buried** and **then raised**. Can you see how the physical death and the physical resurrection has all relevant in getting us to experience His life today.

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God (By the faithfulness of God), **who has raised him from the dead.**

Can you see how sin in the flesh ends because of bodily resurrection?

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, has he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Chapter 3:

1 If you then be risen with Christ (If Jesus is bodily raised and we believe that we are bodily raised with Him, that means we say that His resurrection is our resurrection. That does not mean that we are already bodily raised. We are saying that the fact that He conquered sin and death, it means that He has conquered my sin and He conquered my death. Therefore, we conclude that His life is my life. Since we are concluding that His life is our life, and we start to look at our lives, we say we are still waiting, groaning (Romans 8) what should we do? How shall we live every day? Again, answering the question, what relevance does the bodily resurrection, and the expectation of it, for me in the end of time, what relevance does it have for me today? Here it is:

1 If you then be risen with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For you are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Now the "punch line"...

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear (He's coming back!), **then shall you also appear with him in glory.**

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

So, what is he saying? He is saying, "Listen, let me explain it to you. Jesus was raised from the dead and we are now, also, raised from the dead with Him. (I think next week I will have to explain what that means There's a lot of misunderstanding on what it means to be raised with Christ.)

When we say that we are raised with Christ, that means that we are now expecting, from Him, our life is now hidden in the fact that He is Lord. The only way that we are going to have that life is from Him bringing forth that life in us.

Then it says, "Keep your eyes on Christ Who is the Lord, who is now in heaven **who will appear...** meaning He's coming back! And when **He appears, we shall also appear with Him in glory.** That means we shall be made immortal.

So, what are we awaiting? We are waiting for our bodily resurrection in the return of Christ. That is what we are mindful of. He says that as we are mindful of therefore, on account of this, we are mortifying our members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, etc.

What he is saying is, "As we are expecting the bodily resurrection of ourselves, in the day of the Lord, for we have no life in our own power, all life comes from Him, as we are expecting that, what are we effectively doing? We are seeing the mortification of all these sexual immoralities and all those kinds of things.

So, again, answering the question, "What relevance does expecting and knowing you'll be bodily raised in the end, have on us today? By that expectation we have a faith inside us from where we find, through that expectation, there is a mortification of the fruit of the flesh.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

This scripture comes out of **Hebrews 10:**

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which has great recompense of reward.

What is this confidence? The confidence was that they will be bodily raised from the dead.

36 For you have need of patience, that, after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise.

What is the promise? Titus is so clear on that... the promise is eternal life... the resurrection. He says, "Don't throw away your confidence that you will be bodily raised. You need patience that after the patience you shall receive what was promised you ... which is the bodily resurrection.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: (The just shall be raised from the dead by the faithfulness of God and as we rely and expect this faithfulness to manifest which is our bodily resurrection.) **but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Now, some people “fall out of the bus” and say, “You see, it’s your soul that gets saved.” Let’s define what soul is. Soul means person or human. That is basically what it is. Adam became a living soul the moment the breath of life came into him. He was not a living soul that came and occupied a body. He only became one once his body started to live.

Hebrews 11:

1 Now faith is (What is the faith he is talking about? The faith that he is talking about is the persuasion and the judgment that God is faithful to raise us bodily.) **Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

By the persuasion that we judge God as faithful, that He can raise us from the dead, we’ll obtain a good report in this world.

3 Through faith we understand (Understanding comes) **that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.**

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than... We have a better life right now. You know how to bring your sacrifice to God. (I’m using Old Testament examples here now.) But what Paul is saying, what the writer of Hebrews is saying is, “As you have confidence that you shall be raised from the dead, look at all these old faith heroes. Look at what kind of lives they lived because they confidently expected that God can make true what is promised. So confidently expect that you shall be bodily raised and that God is the One who ends all sin and ends all death in you. It’s not your work! It is His work! As you do that, you will find that there is testimony of this truth in the here and now.

And that concludes my message on the relevance of the Resurrection today. The hope of being bodily raised one day is not something that is on the back burner. It is central. It’s pivotal. It is what Christianity is all about. It is called the confidence of the Believer. It is called faith.

Romans 8:24 For we are saved by hope: How are we saved today from stressing about everything? We are saved by the hope in knowing that Jesus was raised, I am co-

raised with Him. That resurrection is His job to manifest in me. From there, all fears disappear! Amen and amen! And from this power we have signs, wonders, and miracles that can take place! There are signs of this truth taking place, right now, by the Holy Spirit!

Father, I thank You that you love us. Thank You that You care for us. I declare that they are healed in the name of Jesus, by the power of the Resurrection, and that signs and wonders follow in the name of Jesus by the power of the Spirit of life that there is in Christ Jesus... healing of sickness and disease, healing of all forms of oppression. Freedom is yours in Jesus' name. Amen and amen

That is absolutely good news! Thank you so much for allowing me to serve you today. I am so excited about this message. I trust that it has blessed you. Please share it with friends. People need it! God bless...