

Questions About How Cremated Souls Will Be Resurrected

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Yesterday you spoke that the dead will rise but for those who were cremated, will their souls rise? How will they rise do you think?

Thanks

Answer:

That's a heartfelt and thoughtful question — thank you for asking it. Here's a biblically grounded answer that brings clarity and hope.

Will Those Who Are Cremated Be Resurrected?

Yes. Absolutely.

The Bible teaches that **God will raise the dead**, regardless of the condition of their physical remains — whether buried, lost at sea, eaten by animals, or cremated. God's **power is not limited** by what has happened to the body.

“And He will send His angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

— *Matthew 24:31*

“The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them.”

— *Revelation 20:13*

Cremation doesn't hinder resurrection. The **same God who made Adam from the dust** of the ground (Genesis 2:7) can surely recreate any person from **ashes or atoms**. His knowledge of **your identity, your heart, and your soul is intact** in the heavenly record books (Malachi 3:16).

What About the Soul?

Biblically, a soul is not something that floats independently of the body — it's the **whole person** (Genesis 2:7). In death, we “sleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17), and the “breath” or “spirit” returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7), not a conscious soul.

So whether the body is cremated or buried:

- The person is **not conscious** in death.
- The **resurrection is bodily**, and the soul (your full being) is restored **when Jesus returns**.

How Will They Rise?

According to Scripture, the dead in Christ will:

Rise First

“The dead in Christ shall rise first.”

— *1 Thessalonians 4:16*

Be Given Glorified Bodies

“We will all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye... and the dead will be raised imperishable.”

— *1 Corinthians 15:51–53*

That means:

- **No more decay**
- **No more pain**
- **No missing limbs**
- Even if someone died in war, fire, or illness, they will be **perfected in the resurrection**.

What About Fire (Cremation) Specifically?

Some people worry that cremation is wrong or offensive to God — but there is **no biblical command** forbidding cremation. In fact, the Bible tells us that **God Himself will recreate us**:

“He who made you says, ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.’”

— *Isaiah 43:1*

Summary

Question	Biblical Answer
Will the cremated rise again?	Yes. God can recreate them — His power is not limited by ashes or atoms.
What happens to the soul?	It “sleeps” until resurrection — no conscious life after death.
Will their bodies be restored?	Yes — glorified, immortal, perfected bodies.
Should we fear cremation?	No — there’s no biblical prohibition. God looks at the heart, not the ashes.

Let’s continue to hold on to the hope of resurrection — not because of what we’ve done, but because of what **Jesus has promised**.