May 1, 2022

Greeting to all and I pray you and your love ones are in good health, spiritually into Gods word and be praying for the people of Ukraine. I have a question for you, have you ever wonder what happens to our body when we die? Raised in the Catholic Church, I did not know anything about this topic. All I knew our body was put in the ground and that was it. And of course, I would hear we be in heaven with Jesus. In my forty-four years in the church, I don’t recall ever hearing the priest discussing this topic of what actually happens when we died. You can rest assure if you ask a Catholic what scripture says about “what happens when we die” they will not be able to give you an answer. Yes, there will be some who read their bible and can give you an answer but generally, whose are but a few. To be honest, it wasn’t till many years after I got saved that I knew and understood what happens to our body and when we are in the present of God in our resurrected / glorified body. The following article is but one of many such articles in my library that I would like to share with you.

With that said, the **Bible Scripture Letter** topic for May 2022 is **“Do We Receive Our Resurrection Bodies When We Die, or At the End of the Age?”.** The article is short but I will continue on this topic in June issue of BSL.

So, let’s get started.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**Do We Receive Our Resurrection Bodies When We Die, or at the End of the Age?**

The resurrection of the body will occur at the end of the age when Christ returns. There are two main ways the Scriptures indicate this.

First, many verses teach that [our resurrected bodies will be the *same bodies* that we have now](http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Articles/ByTopic/18/1613_Do_we_receive_the_same_body_we_had_on_earth_at_the_resurrection/), except transformed into an immortal state. Since God does not create new bodies for us from scratch, but rather *resurrects* the body that dies, it is clear that we do not receive our resurrection bodies immediately at death. For our bodies, very clearly and evidently remain here on earth and are laid to rest.

Second, many explicit verses declare that the resurrection will not occur until the end of the age when Christ returns.

In **Daniel 12:13** an angel looks ahead to the resurrection as occurring at the end of the age: "*But as for you, go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age."*

In **John 6:40** Christ declares that the resurrection will happen on the last day: *"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." -* See also **John 6:39**, **44**, 54 and **John 11:24.**Paul specifies this meaning even further, stating in **1 Corinthian 15:23**that we will be raised at the return of Christ: *But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.*

In **1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (Rapture)**he also looks ahead to the resurrection as something that will occur not until Christ comes back: " *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord, himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*" (Note to Reader: Do not confuse the Rapture with the Second Coming. More on this topic in June BSL)

The fact that the resurrection will happen at the return of Christ has important implications: It means that glorification will be a *corporate reality* and not an *individual experience* that happens to each believer separately at death. All Christians will be raised into glory *together*. While we all lived at different periods of time, we all came to faith at different times, and we all will have died at different times (except for those who lived until Christ returns), it is an amazing thing that God has planned things such that our glorification will occur at the same time. What a great encouragement it is to know that the believers of the past are waiting for us to finish the race ourselves so that we can all experience the great joy of glorification together.

*Source desiringgod.org*