

WHY I BELIEVE: GOD WILL RESURRECT MY BODY

I Cor 15:35-49

I. INTRODUCTION

A. I BELIEVE GOD IS FATHER, ALMIGHTY, CREATOR

1. ALMIGHTY CREATOR

- Evidence of—Biblical Record—Science—Nature
- Human—Logic—Conscience—Intuition

2. FATHER

- His Spirit enables us to call Him “Abba, Father”—[Gal 4](#)
- His Spirit bears witness to our Spirit—we are His children—[Rom 8](#)

B. I BELIEVE JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND LORD

1. ONLY BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

- Eternal—co-equal and co-creator with God the Father
- Poured out—as Son of Man

2. LORD

- Exalted above all—for His obedience—death on cross
- Restored Son of Man—to pre-incarnate glory of Son of God
- We acknowledge Him as Lord—key to salvation

3. IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE—HE HAS CHANGED ME

- [II Cor 5:17](#)—*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, his is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

C. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON WAS VIRGIN-BORN

1. IMPORTANCE

- Full humanity of Christ—born of woman
- Full deity of Christ—supernaturally conceived by God

2. CHRIST’S ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS—BASIS FOR REDEMPTION

- a. **Perfect** God-Man—inherently **sinless**—**infinite** divine sacrifice for all human sin
- b. Our Righteousness—comes from His perfect obedience—*and* eternal righteousness as Son
- c. Our Pardon—relies on this righteousness

D. I BELIEVE GOD’S SON DIED FOR ME

1. WHAT HIS DEATH DOES

- Defeats death
- Atones for sins
- Reconciles us to Father—saves us
- Demonstrates God’s love
- Assures us of victory

2. HOW I KNOW CHRIST DIED FOR ME

- *Only* to those being saved—the preaching of the cross is the *power* of God—[I Cor 1:18](#)

E. I BELIEVE JESUS CHRIST WAS RESURRECTED

1. EVIDENCE OF EMPTY TOMB

2. BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS OF RESURRECTION AND HIS APPEARANCES
3. WITNESS OF EARLY CHURCH
4. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF PROMISE OF RESURRECTION

II Cor 4:14—*Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you.*

F. I BELIEVE JESUS REIGNS WITH THE FATHER

1. HIS POSITION IS SUPREME—SOVEREIGN
2. HE IS IN HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE—GLORIFIED AT THE FATHER’S SIDE
3. HE IS RULING OVER HIS KINGDOM
4. HE IS DOING HIS WORK THERE
 - Fulfilling His promise—preparing us a place
 - Interceding with the Father
 - Achieving final victory—working it out
 - Holding everything together
5. WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ETERNALLY
 - He is Servant King
 - As His bond-servants, we share His kingdom
 - We follow Him: to reign—is to serve

G. I BELIEVE JESUS WILL RETURN

1. HOW PAROUSIA WILL OCCUR
 - a. Visibly—noticeably—everyone will see and hear
 - b. Instantly— in the twinkling of an eye
 - c. Powerfully—on the clouds with great power and glory
 - d. Unexpectedly—as a thief in the night—nobody knows the time or day
2. WHY PAROUSIA WILL TAKE PLACE
 - a. To consummate redemptive history
 - o Complete His victory over sin, death, and evil
 - o Usher in His eternal kingdom
 - o Re-create the new order—new heaven and new earth
 - b. To collect His saints
 - c. To judge the living and the dead
 - o Believers before the *bema*—for rewards to serve and reign eternally
 - o Non-believers before Great White Throne—condemned for disbelief

H. I BELIEVE GOD HAS SENT US HIS SPIRIT

- THE PERSONAL PRESENCE OF ETERNAL GOD
- COMES ALONGSIDE—COMFORTER—ADVOCATE—TEACHER
- BRINGS BOLDNESS—STRENGTH—POWER—TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST
- BUILDS GOD’S KINGDOM—IDENTIFIES—EQUIPS—EDIFIES HIS CHURCH
- ULTIMATE PURPOSES—TESTIFY ABOUT CHRIST—AND GLORIFY HIM

I. I BELIEVE THE CHURCH IS THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

1. IT HAS A COMMUNAL DESTINATION—HEAVEN
2. IT IS PART OF THE HEAVENLY COMMUNITY
3. IT FOLLOWS A COMMUNAL PATH—ADMISSION IS THE SAME FOR EVERYONE
 - Mediation
 - Sanctification
 - Perfection
 - Adoption
4. IT SHARES A COMMON EXPERIENCE—COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS
 - Universal in Scope
 - United in One Body—of Christ
 - Uniform in Identity
 - Unified in Koinonia
5. IT EMBRACES DIVERSITY IN UNITY—COMPOSED OF ALL NATIONS/RACES
6. IT DEFIES HUMAN WISDOM
 - It grows when it dies
 - It has survived throughout the ages—and continues to thrive
 - It proclaims a unique, radical, unearthly message—grace not works

J. I BELIEVE I AM FORGIVEN

1. WHAT JESUS DOES
 - Pays for my sin—cancels the debt
 - Heals the rift between me and God
 - Releases me from prison—sets me free from the clutches of sin
 - Cleanses me from all unrighteousness
 - Pardons me—no stigma of guilt remains
2. HOW THIS AFFECTS ME
 - I am saved—from death—to eternal life
 - I am restored—in favor with God the Father
 - I have access to Him—through the blood of Christ
 - I have returned home—am repatriated

K. I BELIEVE GOD WILL RESURRECT MY BODY

1. GOD DOES THIS SUPERNATURALLY

- It is a miracle—that only Supernatural God can do
- By the same power He raised Jesus—He will raise us

2. WE MUST FIRST DIE—IN ORDER TO BE RAISED

- We die to self and follow Christ
- We die physically to be raised supernaturally

3. WE WILL HAVE A NEW, GLORIOUS, BETTER BODY

- From Perishable to Imperishable
- From Dishonor to Glory
- From Weakness to Power
- From Natural to Spiritual

4. WE WILL BEAR CHRIST'S HEAVENLY IMAGE—WILL SEE HIM AND BE LIKE HIM

L. I BELIEVE I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

1. BODILY RESURRECTION IS NOT ENOUGH—WHAT COMES NEXT?

2. BESIDES JESUS' RESURRECTION—8 OTHERS—GAVE *TEMPORARY* LIFE!

a. **BY ELIJAH (I KINGS 17)**

- o In Phoenecia
- o Son of Widow of Zarephath

b. **BY ELISHA (II KINGS 4)**

- o In Isaachar
- o Son of Shunnamite woman

c. **BY ELISHA'S BONES (II KINGS 13)**

- o Jew buried as Moabites raided

d. **BY JESUS (MARK 5)**

- o In Capernaum
- o Ruler Jairus's daughter

e. **BY JESUS (LUKE 7)**

- o Near Shunem [where Elisha raised the boy]
- o Son of Widow of Nain

f. **BY JESUS (JOHN 11)**

- o At Bethany
- o Lazarus—just before Palm Sunday

g. **BY PETER (ACTS 9)**

- o At Joppa
- o Dorcus—Tabitha—seamstress

h. **BY PAUL (ACTS 20)**

- o At Troas—while Paul was preaching
- o Eutychus fell asleep—fell from loft

I BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY AND LIFE EVERLASTING.

II. BIBLICAL TEXT—I John 5:11-13

11 And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. **13** These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

III. POSSIBILITIES

A. WE ARE PHYSICALLY **IMMORTAL**—PROVEN WRONG—EVERYONE DIES

B. DEATH IS THE **END**

- ATHEIST'S ANSWER
- EVERYTHING IS NATURAL MATTER
- NOTHING IS SPIRITUAL OR SUPERNATURAL

C. LIFE **CONTINUES**

1. BY REINCARNATION

- o **Hinduism**—the absorption into ultimate reality—Brahman
- o **Buddhism**—then obliteration into selflessness—Nirvana

2. BY ETERNAL LIFE

- o Christ-followers—identifiable resurrected body like Christ's
- o Christ-followers—live in God's presence and serve Him personally
- o Non-Christ-followers—experience second, on-going death of separation from God

IV. WHAT IS ETERNAL LIFE

A. STATE OF **BEING**

- IMMORTAL SPIRITUAL BODY—UNENDING LIFE—CAN NEVER DIE

B. A **PRODUCT** OF SUPERNATURAL AND ETERNAL GOD

1. HE HAS POWER TO OVERCOME NATURE, CORRUPTION AND DEATH
2. HE HAS POWER TO SUSTAIN LIFE FOREVER
3. HE IS BIGGER THAN LIFE ITSELF
 - o God is not a product *of* life—but vice-versa
 - o God does not just 'live'—life comes *from* Him

- o God possesses—authors—generates—and controls—all life

C. IT **ORIGINATES** WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON

Jn 5:26—*For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself*

D. IT IS **EMBODIED** AND **GUARANTEED** IN THE PERSON OF JESUS

1. HE **POSSESSES** LIFE—IN HIM IS LIFE

Jn 1:4—*In Him was life, and that life was the light of men*

2. HE HAS **REVEALED** THIS LIFE TO US

Jn 1:1-2—*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us*

3. HE HAS **SECURED** THIS LIFE—AGAINST THE THREAT OF DEATH

Rev 1:17-18—*Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.*

E. IT IS A **GIFT** FROM GOD

1. THROUGH CHRIST

- o He gives life—to whomever He wishes

Jn 5:21—*For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes.*

2. TO WHOMEVER BELIEVES

- a. *The decisive dividing point—belief in the Son of God*

Jn 3:36—*He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not believe the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*

- b. Will not undergo judgment leading to second death

Jn 5:24—*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.*

- c. Raised by Christ Himself

Jn 6:40—*For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.*

3. NOT BASED ON WORKS—BUT GRACE

Titus 3:7—*so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

F. MORE THAN JUST EXISTING—BUT **LIVING FULLY**—IN **DIVINE RELATIONSHIP**

1. WHAT HAPPENS—CONFESSION OF CHRIST JOINS US TO GOD

I Jn 4:15—*Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.*

2. ENABLES US POSSESS AND PARTICIPATE IN GOD’S OWN ETERNAL LIFE

a. By **knowing** God the Father and His Son

Jn 17:3—*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

b. By **receiving**—and **having**—Christ

I Jn 5:12—*He who has the Son has the life, and he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.*

V. WHY DO I BELIEVE IN ETERNAL LIFE

A. GOD **PROMISED** IT

I Jn 2:25—*This is the **promise** which He Himself made to us: **eternal life**.*

Titus 1:2—[we have] *the hope of **eternal life** which God, who cannot lie, **promised** long ages ago*

B. JESUS **EXPLAINED** IT

Jn 3:14-15—*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life*

C. JOHN **TESTIFIED** TO IT—IN HIS GOSPEL ACCOUNT

Jn 20:30-31—*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name.*

VI. HOW DO I KNOW I HAVE ETERNAL LIFE

A. JOHN WRITES THESE—IN THIS LETTER—THINGS SO WE WILL KNOW

I Jn 5:13—*These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.*

B. CANNOT BE REDUCED TO EMPIRICAL TESTS

1. **EXAMPLES:**

a. How do we ‘know’—**LOVE**

- o **Testimony is given—declared—they say “I Love You”—[make vows]**
- o **Demonstrate it by actions of thoughtfulness**
- o **Are faithful**
- o **Are prepared to sacrifice for you**

b. How do we measure BEAUTY—CONTENTMENT—HAPPINESS?

2. THESE DEPEND OF INTUITION—PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING—AND FAITH
3. ESPECIALLY FAITH IN GOD’S TESTIMONY—HIS WITNESS—HIS REVELATION

I Jn 5:11—And the testimony—[witness/record]—is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son

C. THIS TESTIMONY TAKES SEVERAL FORMS

- ❖ **GOD’S WRITTEN RECORD**
- ❖ **THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**
- ❖ **PROOF FROM OUR OWN LIVES**
- ❖ **UNDERSTANDING FROM CHRIST HIMSELF**

D. TESTIMONY—GOD’S WRITTEN RECORD

1. JOHN WROTE **GOPEL** TO CONVINC US JESUS IS THE CHRIST

a. His **purpose**—for us to believe—and to have eternal life

b. His **emphasis**—on ‘witness’—[various forms of **μαρτυσ**]

- o Half the ‘martyr’ [witness] references in the NT are Johannine

c. Gospel—full of ‘signs’ [**σημειον**]—to convince us Jesus is the Christ

- o **CHANGING WATER TO WINE—JN 2**
- o **HEALING ROYAL OFFICIAL AT A DISTANCE—JN 4**
- o **HEALING PARALYTIC AT BETHESDA—JN 5**
- o **FEEDING 5000—JN 6**
- o **WALKING ON WATER—JN 6**
- o **HEALING MAN BORN BLIND—JN 9**
- o **RAISING LAZARUS—JN 11**
- o **HIS ON RESURRECTION—JN 20**

d. Luke—speaks of ‘infallible proofs’

Acts 1:3—To these [apostles] He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many infallible proofs, appearing t them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

2. **LETTER OF FIRST JOHN—GOES THE NEXT STEP**

a. **Builds** on this previous knowledge—of Jesus’ performing these ‘signs’

b. **Assures** us—we have eternal life

c. Assurance based on **faith**—willingness to believe in veracity of written **record**

E. TESTIMONY—**WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**—BY SPIRITUAL INTUITION

1. HE HAS GIVEN US HIS SPIRIT—TO ASSURE US

I Jn 4:13—*By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.*

2. HE TEACHES US BY THE **ANOINTING** AND PRESENCE OF HIS SPIRIT

I Jn 2: 20 *But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and you **know all things** . . . 27 As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*

F. TESTIMONY—**PROOF FROM OUR OWN LIVES**

1. BECAUSE WE LOVE THE BROTHERS

I Jn 3:14 *We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. 23 This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*

2. BECAUSE WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

I Jn 3:24—*The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. We know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.*

G. TESTIMONY—**UNDERSTANDING FROM CHRIST HIMSELF**

1. ‘KNOWING’ IS BOTH **INTELLECTUAL**—AND **RELATIONAL**

2. LETTER OF FIRST JOHN NEVER SPEAKS OF STATIC ‘KNOWLEDGE’

a. It always uses a verb—to ‘know’—**41 times!**

- **εἶδω** = intellectually knowing—17 times
- **γινώσκω** = relationally knowing—24 times

b. They come together as—personal ‘understanding’

3. SEE **I Jn 5:20**

- o We **know** intellectual facts *about* the Son of God—**εἶδω**—that He has come
- o **Purpose**—gives ‘understanding’—**διανοια**—*spiritual* knowledge [through the mind]
- o **Result**—so we ‘know’ Him—relationally—**γινώσκω**
- o **Result**—we are ‘in’ His Son Jesus Christ
- o **Result**—we actually experience the true God—and eternal life

4. CONCLUSION

- ❖ WHEN WE BELIEVE AND *KNOW* JESUS CHRIST
- ❖ WE DON'T JUST KNOW *ABOUT* ETERNAL LIFE
- ❖ WE DON'T JUST *HAVE* ETERNAL LIFE
- ❖ WE SPIRITUALLY *EXPERIENCE*—AND ARE CONVINCED OF ETERNAL LIFE

IX. INVITATION

TAKE MY LIFE, LEAD ME LORD

Take my life, lead me, Lord;
Take my life, lead me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.
Take my life, lead me, Lord;
Take my life, lead me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.

Take my life, teach me, Lord;
Take my life, teach me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.
Take my life, teach me, Lord;
Take my life, teach me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.

Here am I, send me, Lord;
Here am I, send me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.
Here am I, send me, Lord;
Here am I, send me, Lord;
Make my life useful to Thee.