

WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM

By: Phillip Hayes

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is"
[1John 3:2].

Man has always had awesome potential. Look at the past one hundred years. Man has built the automobile, the skyscrapers, great advances have been made in the fields of medicine and science. We travel at the speed of light and have walked on the moon. We have sent probes into the universe. Great cities have risen out of deserts; lakes and rivers have been created where there were none. We have televisions, cell phones, computers and fax machines. I can access almost unlimited information and endless videos and movies from the small cell phone I hold in my hand.

Truly, knowledge has increased much in the past one hundred years. Man has fulfilled his "human" potential in many ways, but there is one potential that has escaped him. And that is to be

like his Creator!

I know those are strong words but it is exactly what God intended us to be.

In the beginning Adam was created in the image of God and given dominion (rule) (a kingdom), over all the earth. Adam lost this position with God. When Jesus came to this world, He came to restore what Adam had lost. To those that would receive Him, He gave them *"Power to become sons of God!"*

A new creation was dawning! Apostle Paul said it this way, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new"* [2Corinthians 5:17].

Although we are a new creature in Christ, Paul revealed that man could not enter into the final dimension of God's Kingdom in earthy bodies. These awesome bodies we now live in would have to undergo a transformation! *"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall*

sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" [1Corinthians 15:49-53].

Yes, we become new creatures when we are born again! We are now the sons of God! Our inner man has experienced this amazing transformation and is one with God, but our outward man is perishing. Because of this, there remains a finishing touch the Master must apply.

Children of God, we are going to have new bodies! What will these new bodies look like? What will they be like?

The Bible does not fully reveal what our future bodies will be like. However, we do know our new bodies will be like our Lord's body after His resurrection. *"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" [Philippians 3:21].*

Our Lord's resurrected body was flesh and bone, but it was different. Immediately after He rose from the dead Mary Magdalene saw Him and He spoke to her, but He would not let her touch Him. *"Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my*

Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" [John 20:17]. Yet after this first encounter with Mary Jesus told His disciples to touch Him. "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have" [Luke 24:39].

His resurrected glorified body could be touched and felt. When the women were returning from the empty tomb to tell the disciples that Jesus had risen from the dead they touched Him, *"And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him" [Matthew 28:9].* Why did Jesus not allow Mary to touch Him but later He allowed the disciples to handle Him? Simply because His resurrection was incomplete when she first saw Him.

I believe His physical body had to undergo a change in order to ascend unto the Father. *"Flesh and blood (earthly bodies) cannot inherit the kingdom of God".* His resurrection was not yet complete! This ascension Jesus spoke of was to receive His new resurrected body. It would only take the twinkling of an eye to accomplish this!

Our Lord Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection! *"But now is Christ risen from the*

dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" [1Corinthians 15:20]. The first man to receive an immortal body! We shall experience the very same transformation! "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" [1Corinthians 15:51-53].

What did the resurrected body of Jesus look like? The Bible tells us that after Jesus' torture, crucifixion, and three days in the tomb, He was not immediately recognizable (Mary thought He was the gardener).

According to Luke 24:39 we know that He had a body of flesh and bone. He was not a spirit! We also know that Jesus ate food. Imagine the surprise of the disciples when the risen Lord appeared to them and asked, *"Have you any meat here?" "And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. And he took it, and did eat before them" [Luke 24:41-43].*

Look at this remarkable visit Jesus made with His disciples who were assembled together

in a room with the door closed because they were afraid of the Jews: *"And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"* [John 20:27-29].

Look closely. I want you to see this. Jesus appeared to His disciples without coming through a door! He actually materialized in front of them! His glorious new body had the ability to materialize and dematerialize! Also His body could change form or appearance! He had the ability to allow them to recognize Him or not recognize Him! *"After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country"* [Mark 16:12].

Another time Jesus met two of His disciples walking and He joined them. As Jesus talked with them they began to tell Him all that was done, how Jesus had been crucified and how it had been three days since this had happened. They were

talking to Jesus about Jesus and didn't recognize Him! Let's look at the rest of that report in the Gospel of Luke: *"And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" [Luke 24:28-32].*

This is absolutely amazing! They walked with Him and talked with Him; they took Him into their house and sat down to eat a meal with Him and still didn't recognize Him! Although it was the same Jesus, He was in another form. As Jesus brake the bread and blessed it their eyes were opened and suddenly, they knew it was Him. And then Jesus vanished! He disappeared right in front of them! Remember He was not a spirit; His body was a body of flesh and bone!

Let's try to put all this together which we have read. Immediately after our Lord's resurrection, He wouldn't let them touch Him.

Just a short while later they were permitted to touch Him. His body had been changed! Remember, His body was still flesh and bone for He stated He was not a spirit.

His new resurrected glorious body appeared to be as physical as anyone else. His body still had the marks of the crucifixion. They saw the nail prints in His hands. They saw where the sword had pierced His side. He ate a meal with them. He had the ability to change His appearance so much that His closest disciples couldn't recognize Him. Not only could He change His appearance, He could translate Himself from one place to another. He appeared to His disciples when the door was shut and in another instance He vanished right before their eyes! If I had to describe this new resurrected body, I would say it is a combination of both natural and supernatural. His new body was incorruptible and immortal. This body (although it was flesh and bone) could actually transcend time, space and matter. It cannot be fully described with our limited understanding. It is totally unique!

I know all this sounds like a science fiction story, but this is not fiction! This is an eye witness account of what kind of body Jesus had after He was resurrected. Further, this is the kind of body we will also have. Glory to God!

Jesus had a spirit, a soul and a body. We have the same. Many times I have stated I am a spirit living in a body. My body is like a vehicle, it gets me from place to place. My body is also my house; it is where I live. God created us this way.

This next scripture is clear that God has prepared us another house that we will have after our resurrection. I believe our new house will be like our Lords. *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven"* [2Corinthians 5:1-2]. Praise God!

I hope you see this! God is not finished working on us. Our natural bodies are awesomely constructed. But God hasn't finished His masterpiece called "man". The finishing touch of His masterpiece is soon to be completed. The pattern image that God is using is Christ. We shall be like Him!

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he

also glorified” [Romans 8:29-30].

Jesus was the first born among many brethren. The Bible also says that Jesus was the beginning of the creation of God (See Revelation 3:14). You might say that God created Jesus in the beginning of time before He created anything else. I will not argue that. However, could it not also be true that Jesus is the beginning of the New Creation that God revealed with the new resurrected body that Jesus had? The first man truly born-again of God! We know Christ was born of God in the womb of Mary, but He was also born again with a brand new resurrected immortal and supernatural body! Remember, flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. Jesus is our pattern. His body had to be changed, and our bodies must be changed as well!

We are predestinated to be in His image. He has called us. He has justified us. And He will glorify us. Rejoice! We shall be like Him!

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