



## LETTER L-33

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### RESURRECTION AS SEEN IN FIRST CORINTHIANS CHAPTER FIFTEEN

It was in the early sixties, shortly after my husband and I came out of our non-denominational church, that we joined a group of saints who had also left their churches, and were gathering together to hear the Word that God's Spirit was speaking at the time. Some were anointed in expounding the Word, some received God's word through vivid dreams and visions, while yet others were able to interpret their meaning. The Spirit was talking to us, beyond the realm of the gifts. We were hearing the call to sonship and to come up higher, but we needed to grow and mature in Christ. We were led by a Spirit-filled Baptist preacher, who had recently heard the higher call to this new ministry through a very impressive dream. The anointing that flowed from him to the people was new, powerful and most inspiring. God also raised some teachers and preachers among us, and some were anointed with dreams and visions confirming what God was doing among us. This was a move of the Spirit, and a well-oiled machine.

As a group, we experienced our first tragedy when two young and beloved brethren were suddenly killed in a plane crash. Charlie was learning to fly, and Joe was a great instructor but somehow their little plane suddenly came crashing down nose first into the ground; they did not survive. We were all in shock. A few days later, we were having a worship service, when a sister got up to tell a dream she just had. In the dream, she heard one of the two men calling out loud and clear and saying, "**Read First Corinthians 15.**" There are fifty-eight verses to this chapter, and the dream did not say what verses to read.

Shortly after that service took place, I also had this dream, "*I entered a restaurant. There were two rooms to the restaurant. The first room was large with tables set up and ready for customers. The other room was in the back, but the door was locked and no one could go in. I was told that I could go in but just for a few minutes for this was not for anyone to enter. Someone opened the door and let me in, and I saw Charlie, one of the young men killed in the plane crash. He was standing tall on a chair so that he could not easily be reached. His arms straight down along his body. He was dressed and looked much like himself. I was allowed to quickly touch his hand so to have a feel of his body. It was much like flesh although it did not feel like the regular flesh we know; it was a hand, and it was somewhat supple, but it did not feel like anything I had ever felt before. Then I had to leave.*" End of dream.

When I pondered the dream, I realized that the Spirit was showing me that we have a body on the other side, and that this body is indeed very real and touchable. As the years went by and the Spirit began to open my understanding of the invisible realm of God, these are some of the things I have learned. Addressing the saints, Paul said, "*For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle, (our earthly body), were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (our new eternal body).*" (II Cor.5:1) Jesus declared, "*I am the resurrection and the life...*" (Jn.11:25) Jesus's resurrection is no longer seen only in the firstborn Son, but in the many-membered Son of God, the man from heaven, which is already formed in the heavens or the realm of Spirit. Peter addresses the elect company when he writes, "*Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant*

*mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation to be revealed in the last time.*" (I Pet.1:2-5)

Our eternal bodies are our spiritual land of promise. They are where the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make their abode. After His resurrection, Jesus showed Himself to the disciples. He spoke and they recognized Him; yet He was different. His body could disappear or appear at will. He could eat and drink with them, yet after He was taken up into the realm of Spirit, He no longer needed natural food nor drink. He stayed among them for forty days and nights displaying the body that shall be. These bodies are our inheritance, reserved for us in the Spirit to be revealed in the last time, the end of this age. Those who have gone before us, received their bodies but without us cannot be made perfect or complete. They will be complete when they are manifested in the earth. This means that they cannot appear among earthly beings and minister to them as if they were again of the earth. Yet the Bible tells us of a few exceptions to that rule, for instance we read that at the time of Jesus' s resurrection, *"...the graves where opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."* (Matt.27:52-53)

This is surely a "lively hope" for us now; it gives us life and energy to keep on moving on. This is the walk we have been called to; we are going to possess the land of these immortal bodies, and minister in the ages to come in heaven and in earth. This is the true image of Jesus that is being worked within each of us. These bodies are the fruit of the Seed of His resurrection, which the Holy Spirit nurtures within our own souls. Jesus is the Seed, the corn of wheat that fell into our ground and died, and is bringing forth much fruit. And the fruit is Himself, His life swallowing up our mortality until *"Death is swallowed up in victory"* (ICor.15: 54). This is how we are born again; we are begotten again of His seed.

Of the first resurrection John writes, *"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection; on such the second death hath no power; but they shall be kings and priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."* (Rev.20:6) This first resurrection is what Paul was praying to attain, *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."* (Phil.3:10-11) Paul greatly desired to be part of those who would receive the same body that Jesus received at His resurrection.

There came a day, before His crucifixion, when Jesus gave Peter, James and John a private preview of Himself in His eternal body, *"...And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses; and they were talking to Jesus."* (Mk.9:3-4) Moses and Elijah are two among the heroes of the faith, who are clothed with eternal garments, and eagerly waiting to be made complete when they appear with us on the earth. In dreams, I have seen and recognized several of my dear brethren, who had died and have received their new bodies.

Shortly after my husband passed away, I saw him in a dream, *"Michael was standing behind a man. He was behind him yet he could be seen fully. Michael was so very happy and he was smiling like I had never seen him smile before. The reason he was so happy, was because he had found his new "buddy."* End of dream. When I woke up, I ponder the word 'buddy' that I thought I heard in the dream, but I knew that this was not quite right. Then I realized that the man he was hiding behind, was his new "body." The Spirit was showing me that Michael had indeed received his body of resurrection. In another dream, *"I was in my bedroom, and in the dream, the next room was behind a heavy drape rather than a wall. As I sat in my chair, I saw first the form a thumb, then a fist trying to push through the drape. Then I was able to see into*

*the next room, and I saw many of the saints I had known gathered together, waiting for the drape to open. The person who had pushed his fist through was a dear friend who had been many years with us on this walk."*

These are some of the firstfruits in their new bodies, but the question arises, "What about those who are not part of the first resurrection?" Paul raises the question, "*But some one will say, "How can the dead rise? And with what kind of body do they come back?"*"(Weymouth transl.) He answers, "*Foolish man! The seed you yourself sow has no life given to it unless it first dies; and as for what you sow, it is not the plant which is to be that you are sowing, but a bare grain, of wheat (it may be) or of something else, and God gives it a body as He has seen fit. **And to each kind of seed a body of its own.***" (I Cor.15:36-38)

In the same chapter, Paul explains that in creation there are many kinds of seeds; indeed, there are multitudes of living creatures in this world, and each has its own kind of body according to its seed. Then Paul moves on and says that there are not only terrestrial bodies, there are also celestial bodies and each has its own level of glory. There are the glory of the sun, of the moon and also of the stars, and that each is different from the other in glory. And then he concludes with this astonishing statement, "*SO ALSO IS THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.*" *It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption.*" (Vs.42) Paul is comparing the bodies of resurrection and their glory, to the celestial bodies of the sun, moon and stars, explaining that they all differ in glory.

Peter explains the new birth, "*Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away. But the word of the Lord endureth forever.*" (I Pet.1: 23-25a) These earthly bodies of flesh and blood are only temporal. But the bodies that are formed by the incorruptible Seed of the Word of God are eternal. Christ is the only source of life in this world. Peter is saying that the body formed from the Word of God endures forever, but the body formed from the corruptible earthly seed perishes quickly. In this earthly life, our souls or minds, can nurture the incorruptible seed that comes from the spirit of the Word, or the corruptible seed that comes from natural mind knowledge. It is well to be highly educated, but it is more profitable to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Jesus urged to "*Lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven...*" (Matt.6:20)

Paul was comparing the glory of the sun, moon and stars to the glory of the bodies received in resurrection. Paul desired to be as the sun, "*Joint-heir with Christ*" and receive the same body of glory as Jesus. These bodies are "**quickenig or life-giving**" spirits. They can appear or disappear at will and minister in both the heavens or the earth. They are fully sustained by the power of Christ within; they rule and reign with Christ. Then Paul explains that there are also bodies as the moon. The moon has no light of her own and reflects the light of the sun. These receive eternal bodies that are sustained by the Son of God, but not inwardly. They are as Adam and Eve were in the garden; they have life eternal but their source of life from God is replenished each day. And then there are all the multitudes of little children who are as the multitudes of stars in the kingdom of God. We know that some stars are larger than our sun, but Paul is using the stars, the small brilliant lights that we gawk at and admire all over the night sky. In it all, Paul is using these beautiful things to make us understand what resurrection is all about.

Paul fervently prayed, "*The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of HIS calling, and what the riches of the glory of HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS.*" (Eph.1:18) We inherit Christ, and He inherits our soul, as we become one new creature forever.

It is to this end that our souls are going through the purifying fires that will make us fit for the bodies that shall be. It is in the fire that the Son of God is turning our affections away from the things of this world, and purifying our love for Him. What bride is there that is not madly in love with her husband to be? It was in a dream that I came to know this fully. *"I was very much in love with this man that I was going to marry. However he told me that before we could marry, I had to receive the approval of his father. And so he took me to the estate where his father lived. He stood aside and from where I stood, I could only see his legs. Then from behind me, the father came and wrapped his arms around my waist. He stayed behind me, holding me and cradling me back and forth as if he was weighing me. Then he said, I know now that you are sincere and that you really love my son. This was his approval."* End of dream. I need not remind you that such dreams are never for me only. I represent the bride, the company of saints who are made ready for this union in Christ.

Indeed, the Son takes us to the Father, and the Father knows if we truly love the Son. Do we really love the Word of God, or do we only accumulate knowledge as an interesting religion or way of life. Do we have a passion in our hearts and a desire to know Him as He is, and to know about the things of eternal life? We know that this has not been our true desire in the past, but do we find ourselves with new zeal to know Him more? This is why our souls are going through fire. I know that the suffering that I have gone through in the past few years, has helped change my perspective and my desires in many ways.

Christ is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. He will not leave us unfinished for we are also His inheritance. Father, we thank you for revealing these things to us, in a new and living way. Thank you for the courage and the strength you give us each day, to continue in the faith, until all is complete and perfect. Bless the name of Jesus, now and forever more.

Because He is love, *Jackie Caporaso*

**A SHORT RECAP ON REDEMPTION AND RECONCILIATION-** In the previous Letter-32, we established the order of God's redemption and reconciliation. It must be noted that while the payment for all sins is made by the blood of Jesus on the cross, the work of complete salvation is accomplished by the Holy Spirit. We read, *"Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."* (Phil.2:12-13) We work out our own salvation as God's Holy Spirit works in us to change our minds and affections, that we might gladly do His will and good pleasure! Our part is to yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

Man has been given a will to choose the things of the earth, but God's will greatly supercedes man's will when it comes to His eternal work. God's only begotten Son came in the flesh, to buy back or purchase all that belongs to Him, for He created it all. The price of the purchase is the precious blood of Jesus, *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversations received by the tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* (I Pet.1:18-19). After the Son took possession of all things, He called and anointed the apostle Paul to begin the work of gathering and teaching the church. God's Holy Spirit has been reconciling these called-out ones unto Himself. Step by step, He woos her back unto Himself, turning her heart and soul, (mind), back unto her first love. At the same time that the true church began to be gathered, the counterfeit called Mystery Babylon was arising and taking dominance over the people's hearts, teaching them to perform rites and rituals to obtain their place in "heaven" and to shun the torments of Dante's hell. The voice of God's Holy Spirit has been calling His church to come unto Him and be cleansed from the teachings of Babylon's captivity, that she might fully embrace Him as He appears. Amen!