



# THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

Hope to attain

“the hope of the promise  
made by God to our fathers”  
**Acts 26:6**

**NTABAZI INNOCENT**

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## THE HOPE OF THE PROMISE MADE BY GOD TO THE FATHERS.

***"And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?" Acts 26:6-8***

In Acts 26, Paul is being examined by the Roman authorities. He is before King Agrippa, the Jews accusing him of preaching the resurrection from the dead in Christ Jesus! Paul in his defence puts a cross a clear and very important understanding, that the Resurrection from the dead was the promise made by God to the fathers/patriarchs; and it was the very reason why the twelve tribes of Israel ministered to God under the law, having only one hope to attain - The resurrection from the dead. This meant that Paul was very right to walk in the will of God and preach the resurrection of the dead.

***"And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us" Heb 11:39-40.*** All the people in the Old Testament who

walked with God having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, ***"God having provided something better for us that they should not be made perfect apart from us."***

Being made '*perfect*' is '*teleiotés*' (Strong's #5047) which means completeness, perfection, maturity, to be finished. In this context, it can mean the complete resurrection of the spirit, soul and body at the full manifestation of Christ in his church. When the corruptible body puts on incorruption.

The scripture also means that God wanted us who would be alive in the last days to be part of the promise to be perfected together with the heroes of faith!

***"Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection."*** Hebrews 11:35

They accepted to suffer and let all things go so that they might obtain a better resurrection!

Even David talked of this hope, ***"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."*** Psalms 16:10. This is the reason why the church should come to the

revelation of this awesome hope of the resurrection of the dead. We ought to stand firm and not be tossed to and fro by the doctrines of men. The resurrection of the dead is the hope of the church as it was the hope of the patriarchs. Not the unbiblical rapture!

#### THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH.

***"Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up - if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." 1 Cor 15:12-19***

Paul clearly shows us that if we say that there is no resurrection, then it is as if Christ did not rise from the dead, hence making our faith void and without

hope. Paul says this because he knew that the resurrection of the dead is the hope for the church.

The Greeks did not believe in the resurrection of the body. They actually thought that the body was a barrier to the immortal soul. This false understanding had infiltrated the church of the Corinthians. Since it was an immature church, many of the brethren had started to believe that there would be no bodily resurrection which was contrary to the will and plan of God. Resurrection has been at the core of the work of restoration which God is accomplishing in the Earth.

The Apostle Paul tells them that if they believe that there is no resurrection of the dead – (bodily resurrection), it is equal to believing that Christ did not rise from the dead and if so, then their faith was futile. This is how important understanding resurrection is, it is the hope of the church.

***"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." V20***

Christ rose from the dead as the first fruit and so we are sure that we will stand up again/raise from the dead and put on immortal bodies to rule and reign with Christ on the earth forever. This is our hope.



The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the root and foundation of our Christian faith.

It was Abraham's hope in **Genesis 22:5** when he spoke to the young men who were with him while he took his son Isaac to be sacrificed

*"we will come back to you"* yet he knew he was going to sacrifice his son unto God.

It was David's hope in **Psalms 16:10** “ *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption*”

Paul also hoped for resurrection in **Phil 3:7-11**

*"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."*

## ASPECTS OF RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

### THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

The resurrection of Jesus was spoken of by the Old Testament prophets. *"Thus it was written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day."* Luke 24:46

*"If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty."* 1 Cor 15:14

Key words to note in this verse: preaching being empty, and faith being empty if there is no resurrection.

#### **1. Preaching is empty without the resurrection of Christ**

We are to testify to everybody that Christ died, was buried and rose from the dead. Through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, every soul receives the forgiveness of sin which is our redemption.

We are to preach the resurrection of Christ. **Acts 1:21-22** When the apostles & disciples were led by the Holy Spirit to get a person to take Judas' office, they sought one *"who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us beginning from the Baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us. That one of these*

***must become a witness with us of His resurrection."***

An important aspect of our preaching is letting all know that Christ rose from the dead. ***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*** Acts 2:33 ***"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all."*** Acts 4:33

***"Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead."*** Acts 4:1-2

## **2. Faith is empty without the resurrection of Christ**

The resurrection of Jesus is the heart of our faith! Without the resurrection, our faith is futile. ***"And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins."*** 1 Cor 15:17. Christian faith completely depends on the resurrection of Jesus, our sins were forgiven and death was overcome.

**Rom 6:9** *"Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him."* Jesus overcame death! ***"He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death."*** Rev 1:18

One having keys in his hands is a symbol of authority, hence Jesus has power over hell and death. Jesus overcame sin and death in His death, burial and resurrection.

This is an important understanding in our faith that sin was dealt with. ***"Christ was delivered up because of our offences and was raised because of our justification."*** Rom 4:25

Without the resurrection of Jesus, our faith becomes futile. Futile means useless, empty, hollow, unreal, unproductive, void of results, lacking substance, worthless.

The resurrection of Jesus is witnessed in all four gospels because of its profound/lifesaving importance to all disciples and believers of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is the backbone of all other aspects of resurrection. ***"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen..."*** 1 Cor 15:13

## SPIRITUAL RESSURECTION OF BELIEVERS.

***"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Eph 2:1-6***

This is the spiritual resurrection of believers whose spirits had been dead in trespasses and sins but are now alive to God through the resurrection of Christ Jesus.

***"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had***

***not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*** Rev 20:4-6

The first resurrection in this context is the spiritual resurrection of those who received Jesus in their lives and had their spirits resurrected. Those who were part of the first resurrection, the second death has no power over. The second death is being cast and punished forever into eternal destruction or hell, ***"But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*** Rev 21:8

At the spiritual resurrection which is only for believers of Jesus, there is a start of a new life when we are born of God. We start to walk in the newness of life, experiencing the life of the kingdom of God here on earth. ***"Therefore we were buried with Him***

***through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."***

**Rom 6:4**

#### RESURRECTION OF ALL IN THE GRAVE.

***"Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation." John 5:28-29.***

***"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust." Acts 24:15***

All people who died will rise from the dead whether they lived a good life unto God before their death or not. Those who were in Christ Jesus at their death will resurrect to eternal life while those who walked in evil and died in it will resurrect to eternal condemnation.

***"...In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the***

***dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*1 Cor 15: 52**

In chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians, Paul further elaborates to the brethren about the resurrection that will happen to the body sincerely combating the Greek ideologies that were held by the brethren in that church.

***"...It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."* 1 Cor 15:44**

***"The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man."* 1 Cor 15: 47-49**

The scriptures clearly elaborate to us two kinds of bodies: the first being that of the man of dust - Adam which we bore at our birth and lifetime. The other body was that of the heavenly man, the second man who was the Lord from heaven. The scripture is very clear that we will bear the image of the heavenly man. In other words, we will put on spiritual bodies.



A point to remember is that Christ is the firstfruits of those who fell asleep/died. ***"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*** 1 Cor 15:20

If Christ is the firstfruits of those who fell asleep, that means we are expecting a full harvest and all other fruits will be like the first fruit! This means that the body we will have will be like that of Jesus after his resurrection from the dead. A glorious body.

***"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them "Peace be with you."*** John 20:19

Jesus did not need keys to access the place where the disciples were yet he had a tangible body!

***"Behold, I tell 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 trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."*** 1 Cor 15:51

We will have incorruptible bodies at the full manifestation of Christ in His Church. How awesome is that!

Martha the sister of Lazarus knew that there would be a resurrection from the dead of all people on the last day. **John 11:24**

#### GOING DEEPER INTO THE RESURRECTION.

***"...Jesus came, He found that he (Lazarus) had already been in the tomb four days."*** John 11:17

***"Martha (his sister) said to Jesus "If you had been here, my brother would not have died, But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."*** John 11:21-22

Martha believed that Jesus would be heard by God if He asked anything.

**"Jesus said to her, *"Your brother will rise again."***  
**V23**

Martha having an understanding of the resurrection of all people on the last day, responded, ***"I know he will rise up at the last day."*** But Jesus was having a deeper reality at this moment that He wanted Martha to receive. Jesus said to her, ***"I am the resurrection***

***and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, He shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"***

I also want to ask you. Do you believe that Jesus is the resurrection and the life? **John 14:6**. Then Martha's eyes were opened to see the reality of resurrection and to know who resurrection is.

She made a very great response which God desires all of us to understand and walk in. She responded, ***"Yes Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."*** V22 Martha received the revelation that Jesus is God in the flesh. God is life and He is the resurrection and His name is Jesus!

When you receive Jesus, you have received resurrection and you start to immediately walk in eternal life. In **John 11:4**, Jesus had told His disciples before visiting Martha and her house that, ***"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the son of God may be glorified through it."***

In the situation of Lazarus' illness, Jesus was to be glorified, known and revealed to His disciples that He is God in the flesh and in Him is life. He is the source of life. **Psalms 36:9, Jer 17:13**

## THE COMING OF THE LORD & THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD.

One of the major aspects of the coming of the lord is the resurrection of the dead. ***"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first."*** 1Thes 4: 16

***"Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not at all sleep, but we shall all be changed in a moment... and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality."*** 1 Cor 15:51-53

The resurrection of the body (the corruptible body to put on incorruption) will occur at the manifestation, the full revelation of Jesus into His church. This is a major reason why we eagerly desire/wait for His manifestation in us!

As we break bread, we proclaim His death and coming. Our eyes are looking forward to the hope of corruption/mortality to put on incorruption/immortality.

***"We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." 1***  
**Cor 11:26**