

Romans 8:11

Romans 8: 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Let's take a look at just some of the ways this verse solidifies our assurance of salvation. We will look at 5 proofs that this verse grants assurance to the believer. The 5th is by far the longest. We see in verse 11 that the HS dwells in us.

1. The Holy Spirit dwelling in a believer is a **guarantee** of final redemption- **Eph 1:13,14** **13**In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

We see here that if we have the Holy Spirit in us, that is a guarantee of our inheritance. WE WILL GET a reward in heaven. Our bodies will be redeemed just as our spirits were redeemed already. I bought some laminate floor this week. It has a lifetime guarantee. The Holy Spirit's guarantee is a million times better. The Holy Spirit is God's "eternal life" guarantee. And God cannot lie.

Another assurance:

2. If God starts a project, he won't quit in the middle. **Phil 1: 6**being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

We see here that if the Holy Spirit is in us, He has started a good work in us. And according to the promise of God, if He begins it, he finishes it.

Another assurance:

3. God put the Holy Spirit in our bodies, so he won't leave our current situation as it is. He will make the body worthy of his divine presence. The Holy Spirit sure isn't going to hang out in an earthly sinful body forever. He will be sure to have a home that is appropriate for Him some day.

Another assurance

4. The Spirit who is in us is the same spirit who was in Christ, so it stands to reason the same outcome will occur. The reason is continually made in scripture that we will share the same outcome as Christ. And this is just one more logical evidence. The Spirit of God was in Christ. Christ

died and was bodily raised again. Therefore a Christian can safely assume that the Spirit of Christ is in him or her. Therefore he or she will be bodily raised again.

And the last assurance for today. This one will take a while.

5. Our deliverance from sin is not complete until the body is resurrected.

When Adam fell, he fell body, soul and spirit. Christ came to redeem us from the fall. The whole man fell. God, if He is to fulfill all his promises, must save body soul and spirit.

So we are promised a bodily resurrection. If our bodies aren't redeemed, then Christ has failed at this point. And that cannot be.

You can see in the following verses that the redemption of our bodies is promised.

Romans 8:23 **Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.**

Phil 3:20 **For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.**

I John 3:2-3 **2Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

This is a side note that we will come back to later. But look at what the application of this truth of a new body is-

3And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

So our bodies are going to be redeemed. They will be resurrected.

At present the spirit of a believer is completely saved. That is what Romans 8 is confirming for us. We are not condemned and nothing will separate us from this position.

What is true now of our spirits will one day be true of our bodies.

This is clearly what scripture tells us.

When Moses and Elijah appeared at the transfiguration, they were recognizable people in bodies.

When Christ appeared after his resurrection he was recognizable in a body.

At our resurrections there will be things that are the same and things that are different. Our bodies will be sown a natural body and raised a spiritual body. It will be sown a body with the sinful residue from the fall of Adam and will be raised a body without sin.

I Corinthians 15 is a chapter written with the express purpose of proving a bodily resurrection. It was written to counter any thinking or teaching that would remove the hope of eternal life or the teaching that the matter is evil and all that matters is the spirit. Let's look at I Cor 15. We will skip a lot of verses and center on the ones most vital for our study.

1 Corinthians 15

1Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, **2**by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

We see here that whatever Paul is about to say is central to the Gospel. It was part of Paul's presentation of the saving truth of Jesus Christ.

3For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4**and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, **5**and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. **6**After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. **7**After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. **8**Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

Now, why does Paul make such a big deal of all those who saw Christ? It is because it is evidence of Christ's bodily resurrection. The Gospel message includes the resurrection of Christ's body. His BODY was brought back from the dead. It was not just His Spirit in some kind of ghostlike fashion. Part and parcel of the gospel presentation is the bodily resurrection of Christ. So Paul, to make his point more forcefully to the Corinthians, states that not only did his gospel contain this truth, but the historical record proved this truth. And

there were lots of witnesses to the fact that could be questioned to prove the accuracy of the claim.

12 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?

Paul is essentially challenging any view that says there is no resurrection from the dead of believers. You can be a non believer and believe there is no resurrection of the dead. That makes perfect sense. But you cannot be a person who claims to believe the gospel and yet, not believe the gospel at the same time. The Gospel contains in it the truth that there most definitely is resurrection from the dead. In fact, if you take out the resurrection of Christ from the dead you have no gospel at all. So Paul's question has no good answer. It is a position that is impossible to hold. To put it in a simple logic set of statements:

The Gospel says Christ bodily raised from the dead.

You say you believe the gospel.

You do not believe anyone raises bodily from the dead.

The conclusion- your view is impossible to maintain.

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. 14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. 15 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. 16 For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. 17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

Paul now shows logically how the bodily resurrection of Christ is core to the gospel. He shows how it falls apart without bodily resurrection.

If Christ did not raise from the dead there are a few things you can conclude immediately:

First, the gospel is being preached by a bunch of liars.

Christ is not risen bodily from the grave.

Your faith is futile.

Your sins are not taken care of.

The gospel offers no after life benefit.

Those who believe the gospel should be pitied.

20But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Paul proclaims now how things really are, as opposed to the way these false teachers were proclaiming things. Christ guarantees the resurrection of the dead and even gives the chronology of when it will happen.

31I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

There are some who would say they would be a Christian even if it is not true, for the benefits they have received by obeying scripture. I am not sure that these people have ever suffered for Christ or wore themselves out in Christ's service. Obviously Paul doesn't agree with them.

Paul was suffering but his suffering was worth it. Why? Because of the resurrection. It was worth it because of the future grace he would experience. And it was only worth it because there was something certain coming to him in the future that made his present suffering worthwhile. If there were no future resurrection Paul tells you exactly what he would do. He would abandon his work and get all the pleasure in this life he could get.

We don't need to be too critical of those around us who don't know Christ when they do exactly this. It is a very logical thing to do in the position they are in. It's what Paul would have done. If they don't have eternal life, they ought to at least have fun. Why not? And Paul is making the point that if there is no resurrection of the dead, that is all there is to life. We could quit playing with religion because it has no value if it won't give us life.

35But someone will say, "How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?" 36Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive

unless it dies. 37And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.

Now Paul gets to the “how” of bodily resurrection. How is it going to happen. It looks to me like the mockers are asking the question tongue in cheek- “How exactly do you think this incredibly impossible thing of resurrection is going to take place.”

Paul calls them foolish, I think because they are mocking the concept of the resurrection right from the start.

Paul immediately compares the resurrection of the body to something that everyone could relate to. It is like something you can observe even in nature.

You can plant a kernel of corn and God will take that kernel and produce another corn stalk and then another kernel of corn. It is different from the first, but it is the same also. And it is not the person who plants the corn that accomplishes this. It is God who accomplishes this. This process has similarities to the resurrected body of a believer.

Paul goes on

42So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption. 43It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

This passage is saying the same things that we have been learning in Romans about the physical bodies we live in. They are in the state of **corruption**, the state of **dishonor**, the state of **weakness** and the state of **natural**. And they remain in that state until they are put in the ground. If you expect the struggle we have against sin in this body to be a cake-walk, or if you expect to have a one-time experience that will take away this struggle, you have not been reading Romans carefully. This body presents a royal pain. It is a major obstacle. And it will continue to be until someone buries it. And that is one task that you can't do. Someone else will have to.

So our present bodies don't have much with which to recommend themselves. But there will be a future body. And what this body be like?

This new body will be in the state of incorruption, the state of glory, the state of power and the state of spiritual.

Incarnation- these bodies won't self destruct. They won't age. They won't get diseases. They won't wear out. They will function properly for an eternity. Can you imagine that? That is absolutely amazing. This is the answer to every ache or pain that you may have felt this week. Our bodies now are temporary. Incarnation is forever.

Glory- No longer will our bodies contain the dishonor of sin, the residue of our old nature. No longer will it have the memories of the way we have dishonored God with that body. This will be a body that is pure before God. It will be an honorable reflection of God's character. It will not be tarnished.

Power- Our bodies are now impotent against sin and death and disease. We have all kinds of limitations that we cannot overcome. We are impotent and powerless against so many things. One microscopic virus can enter our bodies and we can be dead within a few days. But the bodies we are going to get have power. They have the power to do and be everything that we are called to do and be in eternity. They will be the perfect vehicles for us to be housed in.

Spiritual- These bodies will not be the old natural bodies that our old selves were at one time living in. We now have natural bodies living in a natural environment. We have bodies of sin living in a world of sin. We need to be dressed better for the party we are going to.

We all know what it is like to be working and it dawns on us that we need to prepare for a meeting we are going to. So we get cleaned up and put on better clothes in order to be appropriately dressed for the event. Well, the banquet we are going to as believers requires more than a change of clothes. It requires a change of bodies. We are leaving this natural world and we will be living in a spiritual environment. We aren't dressed properly, but Christ will see to that. We will die and we will put on a spiritual body that is fitting for a spiritual world.

46However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48As 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. 49And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.

Here Paul helps us to understand the "spiritual" body better. Natural was first. This was the body that Adam was in when he fell and that describes

every birth that happened since then. We were all born in the natural bodies. Bodies of clay that would return to clay.

The spiritual body is like Christ's body. We must go further to find how it is like Christ's body.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 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. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

The spiritual body is like Christ's in that it is resurrected.

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. These bodies, designed as they are, are not fitted for eternity. We would be bringing corruption into our eternal dwelling place. This would be unfitting in a great number of ways. Flesh and blood is not going to be the design in heaven. No one knows what it will be, but it will be material. It will be a real body that can be touched. And it will be made in such a way that age does not have a negative effect.

Will we need to eat and drink to stay alive? Who knows? But it is clear we will be ABLE to eat and drink. Will we need sleep? Who knows, but it will always be light. There are a lot of things we don't and can't know. But we know that we will be in bodies and we will be able to recognize each other.

The wonderful thing is they will no longer be bodies we must fight against. We will finally have peace. There will be no power of sin, no presence of sin and no practice of sin. For the first time in our lives we will truly know and be known. And every need that we sometimes ache with on this planet will be met.

When will this happen? At the last trumpet? When is that? It depends who you ask. But we know for sure the last trumpet will be right before all believers dead and alive will be changed. Even the living believers need a new body, and they will get one. When you think about it, it seems like some kind of science fiction story. Can you imagine being alive when Christ returns and moving from your present body to a new one? Wow. That would be something.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**55 “O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?”**

56The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When this transformation takes place, it will be clear that the tools that the devil thought were his will be overcome. Death's sting- sin- will be finally overcome. And the law of God that the devil hoped would be used to condemn us all will have its righteous requirements met through Christ. That is how God gives us the victory, the same victory that is being spoken of in Romans 8. We are more than conquerors. Romans 8 and I Cor 15 really complement each other.

Romans 8 tells us that we will not be condemned. And it tells us about the struggles we will have in our bodies. It tells us that our bodies will be resurrected. I Cor 15 gives us the specifics of how that resurrection will be carried out in regard to our bodies.

Now, given the truth of the reality of the resurrection, what is Paul's next statement in I Cor 15. Based on our bodily resurrection, how should this change how we live? This is what he says in verse 58 as an application of the truths he has covered.

58Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Basically Paul is saying, because of what you know to be true- act! He tells us we, more than anyone on this planet, have a reason to work. We have a reason to be about the work that lasts forever. We have reason to be overcoming sin in our personal lives, to be doing evangelism, discipleship and to be doing ministry to one another. We frankly don't have time for every entertainment and distraction that the world around us fills their lives with. We have work to do. And we have a wonderful reason to do the work. It is only part time work. We are only here for a short time. And then we get a promotion with eternal benefits.

What keeps you from the things you believe are important? What keeps you from doing as good a job as you know you could do in the work of the kingdom? We have every reason, because we are going to live eternally in new bodies with Christ, to use these bodies here and now in Christ's service. We have no reason not to and we have no excuses not to.

Now, just to emphasize how Paul applies the truth of the resurrection, look at our text in Romans- 8:12. What is the next thing Paul tells us to do after we are told that Christ will give life to our mortal bodies?

This is what he says:

¹²Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Paul tells us again to get to work. The application is slightly different, but the idea is the same. We have work to do. We have deeds of the body that we need to put to death. And this is done by us living faithfully according to what we have been told. We will put these deeds to death by the Spirit. We can't do it apart from the power of God in us. But it is WE that must do it. It wasn't Christ that was addressed to do this. It wasn't God that was addressed to do this. It is you and I that were told to carry this out.

Most everywhere you look in scripture you will find that the truth of our eternal lives in Christ is used as fuel to spur us to action. So this week, what will the promise of eternal life in new bodies spur us on to do? Will we treat this as another doctrine, another irrelevant fact, and bask in our self centered self serving living, or will we regard our time here, more and more, as short and our reward as great and be about the business of our Master?