

Who We Are, and What We Will Be

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Having been raised in a certain religious denomination, as well as attending parochial school for eight years, I was taught many of the traditional beliefs associated with Jesus Christ. After graduating from high school, I was introduced and began to attend fellowships where I heard a man teach how God's Word, interprets itself. He taught about "fear is sand in the machinery of life," **and** it struck me like a inbound missile! I had fear in my life, lot's of it. This was something I never considered ever being able to rid my self of my fears, yet he taught how the accuracy of God's Word could change my life. He pointed out some verses of scripture that would help me get rid of fear, completely. One of those verses was in Psalm 34.

Psalm 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

That day was the first time I ever heard God's Word on the subject of fear removal! It was like a bolt of lightening hitting me. I was stunned! Could it be as simple as seeking the Lord to get deliverance. Although this was the first time I ever heard this, it stuck in my brain like a dagger, but in a very wonderful way. I thought about this over and over again, and it kept getting more and more resonant. I felt the weight lifted off my head like a blanket. One verse could do this? YES! This struck me so much that I knew at that moment that I had to hear more about this Word of God that he spoke of that evening. Yet, he continued to share the simplicity of God's Word.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Fantastic! But what did it mean? I wasn't sure, but I knew that it was very meaningful to me. I knew that fear definitely had torment! Fear had tormented me most of my life growing up. It wasn't pleasant. But now I was starting to get some answers to the problem. I had to know more!

As the phrase goes, "I started down that rabbit hole..." As the days, and weeks and months, and even years went by, I still wrestled with this verse, until one day, another believer pointed out to me again, that all scripture interprets itself in the verse, in the context or where it has been used before. He said that I should read the context to truly understand this verse even more. So, I did. Back to verse 15 here in 1 John 4.

Verse 15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness [confidence] in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

The love of God was involved here. To dwell in love is to dwell in God. The perfect love of God is what casts out all fear. It is by God's love that so many things are made available now!

Since I did not own a Bible at the time, I borrowed one from my friend Shawn. His sister's Bible had been sitting on the shelf, so he told me I could have it, (incorrectly given to me). But when he gave it to me, I spent hours and hours pouring over the entire epistle of 1 John. Every verse popped out at me like a neon sign! The whole epistle was blowing my mind. I remember sitting in my bedroom and spending the entire night talking about this with my friends on the phone, and they would come over to my house during the day. This love stuff was so much to take in! To learn that the love of God eradicated fear was just the beginning.

How can I get all of this “love of God” into my heart and mind I wondered. As my other friend had said to me, read the context. So we go back to chapter 3, verse 1.

I John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 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.

Again, I was flabbergasted at these verses! I had been taught my whole young life that no one could ever know if they were saved and going to heaven until we died. This was so puzzling to me because there was nothing I could do about it once I was dead! What the.....??? But now I saw the truth of what *is* available right now. We didn't have to wait to find out if we were going to heaven or not. We didn't have to wait to know if God loved us or not. Here it is plainly stated: “Behold what manner of love the Father hath (past tense) bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” It is all in the past tense. Something that God has already completed. We are NOW the sons (and daughters) of God, just as verse 2 goes on to say...

“Beloved, NOW are we the sons of God...” We don't have to wait until we die, we are sons of God now! Our sonship is the outcome of what God did. He sent His Son to pay the price for all of us. Jesus Christ not only fulfilled all of the Old Testament law, but he also made available the gift of the Holy Spirit, which makes us sons of God... **NOW!** This was a revelation that was so much more than I bargained for. Not only did the love of God destroy all my fears, but it made so many other things available to me. To really be called, by name, a son of God was so uplifting and so indescribable that my heart was just about to pop with joy!

Furthermore, verse 2 goes on to say, **“...and it doth not yet appear what we shall be.”** In other words, **“it has not yet been revealed what we shall be.”** No one today has seen the new body. God has not set up a detailed display, or produced a movie, or even described in the finer points of what our new bodies will look like. However, He has given us a glimpse, a small peek into what we shall be.

I Corinthians 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (WT)=... but then shall I know fully even as I also was fully known.

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew 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 trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

When the mortals put on immortality, and the dead and corrupted ones have been raised incorruptible, all shall have a new body, as is set forth earlier in chapter 15. The natural body, the body a person has before the moment of the return of Christ, has its limitations. But the spiritual body that he gives at his return is like his resurrected body – unlimited in scope and activity!

Verse 44: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are

heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Our fleshly body is a natural body. It is susceptible to all kinds of damage, including death itself. But with the gathering together, we shall have a new look, a new type of body... A spiritual body. Until Christ comes back, the dead remain in the grave with corrupted physical bodies. And our mortal bodies will one day pass. But if Jesus Christ comes back before we pass away, then this mortal body will become immortal. Cooool! More is said about this new body in Philippians.

Philippians 3:20: For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 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. [SHOW ID CARD](#)

Here again, we see what is about to happen. When Christ returns, he will transform our humiliated body that it may have the same form as his glorious body. His glorious body is the one that Jesus has right now. As I said, it is unlimited in scope and activity. After his resurrection from the dead, Jesus paid a visit to the disciples on several different occasions. Although not exhaustive of all his appearances, it outlines some of them in I Corinth 15.

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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 of Cephas, then of [by:dative case] the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

This does not cover a few other of the incidents of Jesus' meet / greet. Jesus was raised from the dead late Saturday afternoon 17 Nisan, shortly before sunset. He was not first seen until the next morning by Mary Magdeline. Some other records which are not mentioned in I Corinthians 15 are: the appearance to Thomas called Didymus, when he showed his hands and side to him. And the appearance of the two men on the road to Emmaus. And of course, when Christ had his final sit down meal with the twelve to explain the upcoming coming of the promise of the Father, right before his ascension.

So...Between his resurrection and his first appearance, what was he doing? Afterall, He was not first seen until the next morning. This is when he did some serious presentations in the spiritual realm.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also he went and preached [heralded] unto the spirits [devil spirits] in prison. 20 Which sometime [previously] were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

To the Greeks, a herald was a public servant sent by an authority to announce or convey a message. Similarly, Jesus Christ proclaimed His message to the imprisoned spirits, just as Noah, described as a herald of righteousness (II Peter 2:5), preached to the unbelieving people of his era.

Spirits: Greek: *pneuma* = spirit. Spirit is used here to refer to devil spirits. If you would like to read other records about bound spirits, see II Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 9:14.

II Peter 2:4: For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, [*delivered them over to be thrown into captivity*] and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; 5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person [8-new beginnings], a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly.

God did not spare the devil spirits responsible for the flood of Noah, but when they sinned, delivered them over to be thrown into captivity with shackles of gloomy darkness to be preserved for judgment. They are not free to do anything. They tried to destroy the earth again, as in Genesis 1:1, but God saved the one righteous man, Noah and his family. This is also spoken about in the book of Jude.

Jude 6: And the angels [devil spirits] which kept not their *first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

Again, these devil spirits which caused the flood of Noah, “kept not their first estate” means, they did not keep their original domain but deserted their own home dwelling. God has preserved them in everlasting bonds under gloomy darkness for judgment in the great day when they will be destroyed.

When we are discussing our new spiritual bodies that are to be fashioned like Christ’s glorious body, I want to look at one more record about what this new body can do, and that is in the Gospel of John. This is one of my favorite records.

John 21:3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. 5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. 6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. 7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. 8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. 9 As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. 11 Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. 12 Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. 13 Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise. 14 This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead. Then let’s go down to verse 25

John 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

These are some great records about God’s love, and the love that Jesus Christ had and has for us. That this perfect love casts out fear from our lives. These records also tell us that we are the privileged sons and daughters who now have salvation and a very, very bright future ahead.

GOD BLESS YOU