

# Pauline Theology – Lesson 09

Resurrection and the Holy Spirit

## Spirit-Transformed Christ » Transformed Christians

1 Corinthians 15:20-23, 42-49

<sup>20</sup> But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. <sup>21</sup> For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

<sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so also ***in Christ shall all be made alive***. <sup>23</sup> But each in his own order: ***Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ***.

<sup>42</sup> So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; ***the last Adam became a life-giving spirit***. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

- The Spirit-transformed Christ will spiritually transform believers and bring them into corporate union with himself. (Beale, 270)
- 2 Cor. 3:6 – “The Spirit **gives life**”; Rom. 8:11 – “He who raised Christ from the dead will also **give life** to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you”.
- “Christ (as incarnate) experiences a spiritual qualification and transformation so thorough and an endowment with the Spirit so complete that as a result they can now be equated. This unprecedented possession of the Spirit and accompanying change in Christ result in a unity so close that not only can it be said simply that the Spirit makes alive, but also that *Christ as Spirit* makes alive. Specifically, this identity is economic or functional, in terms of their activity.”<sup>1</sup>
- “Christ is so identified with the Spirit that he will give resurrection life to all his followers at the end of history, a function typically reserved for God’s Spirit (e.g., see Isa. 44:3-4; Ezek. 26:25-27; 37:1-14; cf. Isa. 32:15-17).”<sup>2</sup>
- When did the “Spirit-transformation” of Christ occur? At his resurrection.
  - o Christ’s resurrection & future resurrection ≠ two events. Rather, they are “organically connected” » “first fruits”

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Gaffin, *Resurrection and Redemption*, 87 (cited in Beale, 271).

<sup>2</sup> Beale, 272.

- “When one comes to trust now in the resurrected Christ and comes into union with him...one begins to be spiritually transformed and will become a completely Spirit-transformed being, a new creation at Christ’s final coming.”<sup>3</sup>

## Spirit Transformation by the Resurrected Christ

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

<sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- “Those identified with Christ have the same position because they have begun to be transferred into the new creation through inaugurated resurrection.”<sup>4</sup>
- In the resurrection, Jesus has become so identified with the Spirit that He functions as the Spirit.
- Believers are united with the resurrected Jesus and are transformed by the Spirit.
  - o Their experience of the resurrection is not *just* in the future resurrection. The life-giving Spirit begins to transform Christians *now*.
- “Because believers are ‘in Christ’ now (and not only in the future; cf. 1 Cor. 15:22) they are identified with an incorporated into his Spirit-transformed resurrection image, to which they are progressively conformed in their lives on earth, a process that will be consummated at the end of history.”<sup>5</sup>

## Christ and Christians as “Spirit Beings”

Romans 8:9-11

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Spirit and Christ are identified because both are “in” the believer. | Parallel in v. 9 between “Spirit of God” & “Spirit of Christ”. | Verse 10 – “Christ is in you” parallel to “the Spirit is life” [in you].
- “The saints’ resurrection life actually begins spiritually now, not only because Christ is in them (v. 10) but also because ‘the Spirit is [resurrection] life’ or ‘the Spirit leads to life’ (v. 10).

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 273.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 277.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 279.