

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service - Bible Study

Elementary Principles of Christ
Principle #5 – Resurrection of the Dead

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020
Teacher: Pastor Jide Lawore

The Six Elementary Principles of Christ: This is the core foundation upon which spiritual maturity is built. It is impossible to go higher in our walk with God without the basic foundations listed in Hebrews 6:1 having been established in our lives

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| 1. Repentance from dead works | 2. Faith toward God |
| 3. The doctrine of baptisms | 4. Laying on of hands |
| 5. Resurrection of the dead | 6. Eternal judgment |

Resurrection of the Dead: The Christian faith does not terminate with time; it goes until eternity. While the first four elementary principles of Christ deal with our life here on earth, the last two principles (resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment) deal with our life on the other side of eternity. Today's study deals with the subject of resurrection, which was translated from the Greek word, *anastasis* which means "up again", "stand up" or "stand again". In the scripture, it describes the rising up again of the dead human body to reunite with the spirit and soul.

According to the scripture, the human personality consists of body, soul, and spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:23**, "...*May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.* When we die, it is our body that dies, the soul and spirit transition into eternity and continues to live on. Hence, when we say resurrection, we are referring to that of our dead body.

What happens when people die? Jesus gives us a picture of this in Luke 16:22-26:

- All departed souls pass into an unseen realm. The place of departed souls/spirits. (Sheol, Hades)
- There is no loss of identity in Sheol. They are able to recognize each other.
- There is a recollection of life on earth
- There is consciousness of their present condition; ability for feel pain and enjoy comfort
- There is a complete separation between the righteous and the unrighteous.

Understanding the Resurrection of Jesus:

What happened to Jesus when he died?

- His spirit went to God: **Luke 23:46** - *Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.*
- His soul went to the realm of the dead: **Acts 2:27** - *because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay.* (Psalm 16:10)
1 Peter 3:18-19 - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19 After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits*
- His Body was buried - **John 19:40-41** - *Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.*

When Jesus rose from the dead, his total personality was reunited

Luke 24:36-41 - *While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." 40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"*

The resurrection of Jesus, changed the destiny of the righteous

- The resurrection of Jesus is the guarantee of our own resurrection. **2 Corinthians 4:14** - *because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself.*
- The resurrection of Jesus is a pattern for ours. **Phil 3:20-21** - *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who 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.

1 Corinthians 15:19-22 - If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

What Happens to Believers Who Die in Christ?

Our spirits ascend directly to Jesus, no longer go to Sheol:

- Account of Stephen: **Acts 7:57-60** - *While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.*
- Apostle Paul's account: **Philippians 1:23** - *I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,*

Our body is buried and decay

At resurrection, just like Jesus, our body, soul, and spirit become reunited. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

What is the Nature of Our Resurrected Body?

1 Cor 15:35-38, 42-44, 52-53 - But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body.....42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.....52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

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The Importance of the Resurrection of Jesus (Romans 4:5, Romans 10:9-10)

1 Corinthians 15:12-18 - But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. 14 And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. 15 More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. 19 If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Hebrews 7:25 - *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.*

The Hope of Resurrection

1 John 3:2-3 - Beloved, 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. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.