

**Heavenly Analogies**

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**I Corinthians 15:35-49** <sup>35</sup>But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” <sup>36</sup>You fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup>And what you sow is not the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or something else. <sup>38</sup>But God gives it a body as He has designed, and to each kind of seed He gives its own body. <sup>39</sup>Not all flesh is the same: Men have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another, and fish another. <sup>40</sup>There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. But the splendor of the heavenly bodies is of one degree, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is of another. <sup>41</sup>The sun has one degree of splendor, the moon another, and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. <sup>42</sup>So will it be with the resurrection of the dead: What is sown is perishable; it is raised 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>So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being;” the last Adam a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup>The spiritual, however, was not first, but the natural, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup>The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. <sup>48</sup>As was the earthly man, so also are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup>And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so also shall we bear the likeness of the heavenly man. (BSB)

**I. Here are the details of this passage.**

- A.** Paul uses a **seed** analogy to illustrate the difference between what we are now and what we are to become in heaven. V. 35-38
- B.** Paul then uses a **contrast** and **compare** analogy between heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. V. 39-44
- C.** There is a side **truth** in this passage from verse 45 regarding the phrase “it is written”. I Corinthians 15 is the only place where these words are exactly written. However, the concepts are totally in line with God’s word.
- D.** Paul finally contrasts the first **Adam** with the last **Adam**. V. 45-49

**II. How can we apply these truths?**

- A.** We need to have our **priorities** based upon what God is going to do instead of building everything around our earthly existence.
- B.** We must live in the **hope** of an amazing future. **Hope** needs to define us and fuel us.
- C.** We must acknowledge that **guessing** at motives of others is a sin and that we must repent.

**I Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men’s hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God. (BSB)

- D.** We must live in the **power** of The Life-Giving Spirit! There are dead places in each of our lives that He wants to bring to life. We must allow Him to do this.