

Series: Together Toward Maturity

Inductive Bible Study Guide: 1 Corinthians 15:35-58



Step 1: Observation – What does the passage say?

Read **1 Corinthians 15:35–58** carefully. Paul answers questions about **what the resurrection body will be like** and celebrates the final victory over death.

Observation Prompts

- What question does Paul respond to?
 - What examples from nature does Paul use?
 - What contrasts does Paul make between earthly and resurrection bodies?
 - What victory does Paul describe at the end of the chapter?
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Read the passage and note what you see:

What question does Paul address in **verses 35–38**?

What illustrations from creation does Paul use in **verses 39–44**?

What contrasts does Paul make between the present body and the resurrection body?

What transformation does Paul describe in **verses 50–53**?

What victory is celebrated in **verses 54–58**?

Step 2: Interpretation – What does the passage mean?

Paul teaches that resurrection does not mean simply returning to our current bodies. Instead, believers will receive **transformed, glorified bodies** suited for eternal life. Just as a seed becomes something far greater when it grows, our resurrection bodies will be glorious and imperishable. The chapter ends with a triumphant declaration: **death has been defeated through Jesus Christ.**

Questions to Explore:

Why does Paul use the image of a seed to explain resurrection?

What differences does Paul describe between earthly bodies and resurrection bodies?

Why must the perishable become imperishable?

What does Paul mean when he says death has been swallowed up in victory?

How does the promise of resurrection motivate believers to remain faithful?

Word Study Suggestions:

- **Perishable / Imperishable (vv.42, 50):** the contrast between mortal, decaying bodies and eternal resurrection bodies
- **Natural body / Spiritual body (v.44):** a body suited for earthly life versus one transformed and empowered by the Spirit for eternal life
- **Last Adam (v.45):** Jesus, who brings life and reverses the effects of Adam's fall
- **Mystery (v.51):** a truth once hidden but now revealed by God
- **Victory (v.57):** Christ's triumph over sin and death through His resurrection

Step 3: Application – How should I respond?

The certainty of resurrection gives believers hope, courage, and purpose

Personal Reflection:

How does the promise of a future resurrection body shape my perspective on aging, suffering, or death?

Do I live with confidence that death has ultimately been defeated?

How does this passage encourage perseverance in serving Christ?

What does it look like for me to be “steadfast and immovable” in my faith?

Summary Truths:

- Our current bodies are temporary, but resurrection bodies will be glorious.
- Christ’s victory over death guarantees the future resurrection of believers.
- Death will ultimately be swallowed up in victory.
- Because of this hope, believers can remain steadfast in their faith.

Optional Memory Verse:

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” — 1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

Prayer Prompt:

“Lord, thank You for the promise of resurrection and the victory over death through Jesus. Help me live faithfully and courageously, knowing that my labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

For Further Study (1 Corinthians 15:35–58)

- **Daniel 12:2–3** — Old Testament promise of resurrection
- **Philippians 3:20–21** — Christ will transform our lowly body
- **1 John 3:2–3** — Believers will be like Christ when He appears
- **Revelation 21:1–4** — Death finally removed in the new creation