

The Versus Series - Part 7

The First Adam vs. the Second Adam

"The Scriptures tell us, 'The first man, Adam, became a living person.' But the last Adam—that is, Christ—is a life-giving Spirit. What comes first is the natural body, then the spiritual body comes later. Adam, the first man, was made from the dust of the earth, while Christ, the second man, came from heaven. Earthly people are like the earthly man, and heavenly people are like the heavenly man. Just as we are now like the earthly man, we will someday be like the heavenly man." —1 Corinthians 15:45-49

The contrast is significant and gives us a crystal-clear picture of the gospel message. The first Adam brought death to the human race, whereas Jesus brought life. Adam was created from the dust of the earth and God breathed His Spirit into him to become a living being. Every person born since then has Adam's earth-bound characteristics that are suitable for a natural life, albeit minus God's Spirit, which Adam forfeited.

However, Jesus came from heaven. Jesus is a life-giving Spirit who took on an earthly body. Christ came as a human baby with a body like all other humans, but He did not originate from the dust of the earth as had Adam. He *"came from heaven."*

Our text describes a *"natural body"* first and a *"heavenly body"* second, illustrating how we are born of Adam to a natural life, but will inherit eternal life through Jesus when we choose to receive Him as our Savior and Lord. Put differently, we are born of the flesh as Adam, but through Jesus, we become like Him, the *"heavenly man."* We receive Jesus' life-giving Spirit when we receive His substitutionary sacrifice for our sin and proclaim Him as Lord.

The Apostle Paul says it this way, *"Adam is a symbol, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift (Jesus)... And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and His gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ." —Romans 5:14b, 16-17*

This is the Good News! Just as Adam was the first of the human race, so Christ is the first of those who will be raised from the dead to eternal life. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He is *"a life-giving spirit"* residing in those who receive Him and live for Him. Moreover, Jesus is the source of the spiritual life that will result in believers' resurrection. God will give them transformed, eternal bodies suited to eternal life. Believers can know with certainty that *"He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under His control."* —Philippians 3:21

 Information and Revelation
 Application and Transformation

Heavenly Father, thank You Jesus who took away my sins. You knew that being born of Adam I had a death sentence against me, and I would need a Savior to redeem me. Thank You for Jesus' the life-giving Spirit within me that provides me with assurances of Your love, for now and for eternity. Thank You for Your only Son, Jesus, Your gracious gift of forgiveness given for me. LORD, help me live day-to-day knowing You more, and growing more in the likeness of Jesus, for He is the source of the spiritual life that will result in my resurrection. Thank You that I can know with certainty that "He will take my weak mortal body and change it into a glorious body like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under His control." I ask this in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

By David E McFadden
"Let's Make Disciples Together!"