

From the March 4, 2010 Issue

Our Awesome New Bodies

One summer day when my son Nick was about six years old, we went for a bicycle ride at the TVA bike trail near the Tennessee River in Muscle Shoals. Nick had just recently learned to ride and was doing quite well, until about the end of the two-mile track. I was riding just ahead of him, sort of keeping an eye on him out of the corner of my eye, when I saw him begin to wobble and I heard a horrendous crash!

Amazingly, the little fellow got up, inspected his hands and knees and found no signs of blood or scratches anywhere. Then he looked up at me and said with an excited grin “Awesome Dad! It’s just like Jesus has come back already and I’ve got my new body!”

One of the glorious truths that we hold dear as Christians is, that even though the physical bodies that we now inhabit will eventually die and decay, we will be granted new glorified bodies in resurrection at his coming. Just as our spirits are made new in Christ now through faith, our bodies will one day be raised incorruptible as well.

Speaking of the resurrection of the human body, the Apostle Paul wrote:

It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:43-44).

One encouraging thing to know about the resurrection body for me is that, even though it is spoken of as an incorruptible “spiritual” body, it apparently will still have some of the same capabilities and characteristics of our human bodies as well.

For instance, when Jesus appeared to his disciples after his resurrection he walked, fished, cooked, ate, and even told them to touch him and feel his wounds so that they might believe. In other words, if Christ is the prototype and “first-fruits” of them that sleep, then it is reasonable to suppose that our bodies will be raised in similar fashion and with the same capabilities as his.

That is to say: not susceptible to death, disease, or decay nor even subject to the laws of physics or gravity, but at least in many respects, similar to what we are now accustomed to. If Jesus ate fish with his disciples on the beach and told them that “A spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have” (Luke 24:39), then I do not think it too far-fetched to believe that our resurrection bodies will similarly be able to experience and do things in a way that “disembodied spirits” cannot.

I agree with Nick... That’s pretty awesome!

~ Brad Campbell