

# QUICKENING SPIRIT

1Corinthians 15:45 KJV And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit.

Hundreds and hundreds of names and titles are necessary to express the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

In our pre-Communion devotions, we've been looking at some of them. As an arbitrary guide, we're using the English alphabet. We began, for example, with the letter 'A,' and discussed Jesus as the Last Adam. We used First Corinthians 15:45 as our text.

We've come to the letter 'Q' in our alphabet. There *is* a 'Q' description of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is in the KJV of First Corinthians 15:45. He is the [Quickening Spirit](#).

It sounds a little weird in English – like something on the SciFi Channel. (Like psychic detectives looking for an apparition or something).

In fact, it's very precious.

Our verse is surrounded by Paul's wonderful teaching on the resurrection. He begins the chapter discussing the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The physical, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is an absolutely essential doctrine of Christianity:

1. The Gospels contain abundant testimony to the resurrection of Christ (see Matthew 28:1–20; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–53; John 20:1–21:25).
2. In addition to the detailed narratives in the four gospels, the book of Acts is a story of the apostles' proclamation

of the resurrection of Christ and of continued prayer to Christ and trust in him as the one who is alive and reigning in heaven.

3. The New Testament letters depend entirely on the assumption that Jesus is a living, reigning Savior who is now the exalted head of the church, who is to be trusted, worshiped, and adored, and who will some day return in power and great glory to reign as King over the earth.
4. The book of Revelation repeatedly shows the risen Christ reigning in heaven and predicts His return to conquer His enemies and reign in glory. Thus the entire New Testament bears witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus' resurrection means many things to us. Here are just two:

1. Because Jesus rose from the dead... You can be justified. Justification is that great Bible doctrine, expounded by Paul in Romans, of how God can be both Just and the justifier of sinful human beings. Think of justification like this and you'll capture it's essence: To be justified is to be treated by God just-as-if-I'd never sinned. Paul says that Jesus *was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification* (Romans 4:25). When Christ was raised from the dead, it was God's declaration of approval of Christ's work of redemption. By raising Christ from the dead, God the Father was in effect saying that He approved of Christ's work of suffering and dying for our sins, that His work was completed, and that Christ no longer had any need to remain dead. There was no penalty left to pay for sin, no more wrath of God to bear, no more guilt or liability

- to punishment - all had been completely paid for, and no guilt remained.
2. Because Jesus rose from the dead... You can be regenerated. Peter says that [we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead](#) (1 Peter 1:3). If Jesus is not risen, you cannot be regenerated. By regenerated we mean born-again by God the Holy Spirit.

It matters to us a great deal that Jesus was indeed risen from the dead. Without Him rising, you cannot be justified, but are still in your sins; without Him rising, you cannot be born-again.

There is something else you are guaranteed because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **You, too, will be resurrected!**

That may seem obvious to you; but it is denied by many:

1. Some believe and teach utter extinction, total annihilation – nothing of your soul or spirit survives after death.
2. Others teach reincarnation, wherein soul and spirit are recycled from one form to another – even from human to animal.
3. Others believe that your spirit or at least part of it are absorbed into some mystical mass mind of the divine.

Reincarnation is a little like recycling, isn't it? Recycling might be good for the environment, *but not for souls!* Likewise reabsorption. As for the ruin of annihilation... I'll pass on it.

Many verses teach or imply that you will be raised from the dead. Among them is the verse we're looking at, describing Jesus as a [quickenning spirit](#).

Our verse says, [And so it is written...](#) It is referring to the Genesis account of the creation of Adam and Eve. God created Adam from the dust of the earth; then Eve from Adam's side. In both cases, He then breathed life into them. He was the source of life. He **is** the source of life.

By the way: This is why belief in God's special creation is so important. Without it, a verse like the one we are studying cannot be true! There are those who would have you think that the apostle Paul was ignorant of future scientific research and the theory of evolution. Such thinking implies that all Scripture is not written under God's inspiration!

God breathed life into Adam. Then in our verse there is a comparison between [the first man Adam](#) and [the last Adam](#). We already studied this. Adam represented all other men who would follow in his line. Upon his conduct depended the welfare or woe of multitudes.

Adam's fall into sin involved the whole human race in sin:

[Romans 5:12](#) Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Had Adam stood faithful, we would have shared in the many advantages of his obedience: Dominion over the world, perhaps even nature itself; exemption from death and disease; growth in both knowledge and grace. Instead... Well, just look at the world, or look within yourself.

Jesus is **the last Adam**. He is the last descendant of Adam and the first of a new creation of human beings. When Jesus rose from the dead, He started something brand new. Those who would believe in Him would become just like Him in that they, too, would be raised in glorious new eternal bodies!

How is that explained? Our verse says that Adam was **made** (or created) **a living soul**. Adam was given life. He received life when God breathed into him.

**Not so Jesus!** Though He was born a man, He was and is **a quickening spirit**.

**Quickening** is translated by the NKJV as *life-giving*. In the verse you learn that Adam was given life by God; but Jesus, **the last Adam**, is infinitely superior to Adam in that **He gives life**.

How can you be descended from Adam, as Jesus was, yet also be the giver of life to men like Adam? **Only if you are God in human flesh!**

We're not talking about physical life now. The specific kind of life we are talking about is resurrection life. We're talking about Jesus giving you the kind of life He now has.

Think of it this way: The **first Adam** was given life by God and his descendants then receive the same kind of life. In his case, because he sinned, he passes on physical life and soulish activity; but we are born spiritually dead and physically dying. The **last Adam** – Jesus Christ – is the giver of life. Those sons of Adam and daughters of Eve who are justified and regenerated receive the same kind of life He

has. Jesus passes on to us His resurrection life. When we die, we will be raised just as He was raised - in a new body, able to go on into eternity.

Simply put – but profoundly revealed – is the truth that **you and I will be raised from the dead in a body just like Jesus’.**

All of that is contained in the description of Jesus as the **quickening spirit**. The **Quickening Spirit**, the life-giver, **will** resurrect you from the dead.

Or He will have to Rapture you, because some believers must obviously be alive when He comes to resurrect the Christians of the Church Age.

Either way you will live forever in a resurrection body, fit for eternity, that has the same qualities and characteristics of Jesus.

Calvary Hanford

- being changed to bring change -







