

**YOU WILL BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD!**  
**November 17, 2013**

I saw in the paper the story about a birthday. A lady celebrated her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday! How many more years would you like to live? If God delays Jesus' coming for another 125 years, then everyone hearing my voice today will have died! After another 100 years will anyone ever see you again?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ.

According to the teaching of Jesus Christ, you will be seen again after you die. In other words, your body will be raised from the dead. The body that comes out of the grave will be different than the body you now possess. However, the new body you are given will house the same spirit that now resides in your physical body. That's right. It will still be you!

Some people who lived in Jesus' day did not believe in life after death. They did not believe that anyone could be raised from the dead. Those people were known as Sadducees. So some of them came to Jesus and made what they thought was an unanswerable argument. They said: "Teacher, Moses wrote that if a married man dies and has no children, his brother should marry the widow. Their first son would then be thought of as the son of the dead brother. There were once seven brothers. The first one married, but died without having any children. The second brother married his brother's widow, and he also died without having children. The same thing happened to the third brother, and finally to all seven brothers. At last the woman died. When God raises people from death, whose wife will this woman be? After all, she had been married to all seven brothers. Jesus answered: You are completely wrong! You don't know what the Scriptures teach. And you don't know anything about the power of God. When God raises people to life, they won't marry. They will be like the angels in heaven. You surely know about people being raised to life. You know that in the story about Moses and the burning bush, God said, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." God isn't the God of the dead, but of the living. You Sadducees are all wrong." ([Mark 12:18-27 CEV](#))

When God used the present tense, "I am the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" He was saying that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were still alive somewhere! Even

hundreds of years after their decease, God could say that He was still, in the present time, their God.

Jesus' teaching on the subject of the resurrection is also found in the Gospel of John. Jesus had miraculously healed a man on the Sabbath day. Well, the Jews objected to that miracle because it was done on the Sabbath; the Jews thought Jesus was desecrating their holy day by working that miracle. So Jesus answered them: "**My Father is working until now, and I am working.**" (John 5:16-17) Now the Jews thought Jesus was blaspheming by that statement! By claiming that God was his Father, Jesus was making himself God's Son. So the people thought Jesus was despising God by lifting himself to the status of God's Son. And so they accused him of blasphemy. John, the writer, concluded: "This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill [Jesus], because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God." (John 5:18)

Jesus responded that God through Jesus was going to do even greater works than what he had done that day. Jesus answered, "I assure you that the Son can do nothing alone. He does only what he sees his Father doing. The Son does the same things that the Father does. The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does. This man was healed. But the Father will show the Son greater things than this to do. Then you will all be amazed. The Father raises the dead and gives them life. In the same way, the Son gives life to those he wants to. "Also, the Father judges no one. He has given the Son power to do all the judging. God did this so that all people will respect the Son the same as they respect the Father. Anyone who does not respect the Son does not respect the Father. He is the one who sent the Son. "I assure you, anyone who hears what I say and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life. They will not be judged guilty. They have already left death and have entered into life. Believe me, an important time is coming. That time is already here. People who are dead will hear the voice of the Son of God. And those who listen will live. Life comes from the Father himself. So the Father has also allowed the Son to give life. And the Father has given him the power to judge all people because he is the Son of Man. "Don't be surprised at this. A time is coming when all people who are dead and in their graves will hear his voice. Then they will come out of their graves. Those who did good in this life will rise and have eternal life. But those who did evil will rise to be judged guilty." (John 5:19-29 Easy-to-Read Version)

Jesus teaches here two "resurrections." That's right! You see, the first resurrection was during His day when spiritually dead people hear Jesus' voice while he was on the earth (that is, they would hear now the teaching of Jesus) and believe in the Father who sent Jesus. But there was coming another time (an hour) when all the physically dead would hear the voice of the Son of God and be raised from the dead. All the physically dead would hear his voice and come out. But not all would have then the same destiny. Although everyone would hear Jesus' voice and be raised from the dead, not everyone would be raised to life. Those who have done evil would be raised to the resurrection of judgment.

So Jesus taught that the dead would be raised when they hear his voice. Jesus' apostle Paul tells us when this will happen. It will happen when Jesus returns to the earth. This great event is still in our future. Paul wrote, "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." ([1 Corinthians 15:50-53](#))

When Jesus returns there will be a great commotion! A trumpet will sound. Jesus also said that he will come with all the angels. He said, "**When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.**" ([Matthew 25:31, 32](#)) We also learn that Jesus will come with flaming fire. So predicts Paul in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, and also in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Paul wrote "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first." ([1 Thessalonians 4:16 ESV](#))

Paul continued his discussion with the Thessalonians, "Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden

destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober." (1Thessalonians 5:1-6)

Friend, are you "a child of light, a child of the day." Or are you a child of darkness, a child of the night? Are you expecting Jesus to return to this earth?

If you are a child of God, a child of the light, then you are a person who has heard and obeyed the gospel (the good news) of Jesus Christ. The way you "obey the gospel" is to believe in Jesus as the Son of God, repent of your sins and be immersed in water in the name of the Father, the son, and the Holy Spirit, in order to receive the forgiveness of sins that Jesus procured for you when he died for you on his cross.

If you remain faithful unto your death, then you will be accounted among those who are dead in Christ and you will be raised first from the dead never to die again.

Yes, Paul was showing us "a mystery. We shall not all sleep, (in other words there will be some Christians alive on earth when Jesus returns) but we shall all be changed, (whether we are alive or buried we all will be changed) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)