

## **Biblical Paradoxes Series**

### **Who raised Jesus from the dead? The Father, Jesus Himself, or the Spirit?**

When we look at a seed it looks dead. We can put that seed on a table and there won't be any change. It will remain a dead looking seed. However, if that same seed is taken and planted in the ground where the soil has the right type of nutrients for that seed, and watered, the seed will germinate. That means that the dead looking seed breaks forth into life growing roots downwards and breaking the surface of the ground to sprout a stem and leaves. The combination of nutrients, water, oxygen, and life in itself were all factors in causing the seed to germinate.

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle —sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.

John 2:19 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

#### **1) God raised Jesus from the dead**

- Acts 2:24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.
- Acts 2:32-33 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.
  - Giving life is something that only God can do
  - Acts 17:25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.
- Life and death are in the power of God
  - 1 Samuel 2:6 The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.
- God purposed for Jesus to give his life on the cross knowing that he had the power to raise Him to life again thus breaking the power of death of all of mankind.
  - When Jesus submitted to the Father in Gethsemane saying, "not my will, but yours be done", He was entrusting His life into the Father's hands believing that he would raise Him from the dead.
- We see this in Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac as a type of God raising his son from the dead
  - Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.
- Abraham had faith that God could raise the dead, Jesus had faith that God could raise the dead, and the apostles had faith that God could raise the dead.
  - God expects us to have the same faith that He can raise the dead
- We know that God raised the dead, but was it God the Father, God, the Son, God the Holy Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead?

## 2) The triune God is always in agreement

- When we talk about God, we talk about the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who are always in agreement with each other
- They were in agreement in their involvement in creation
  - The Father - Deuteronomy 32:6 Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?
  - The Son - Colossians 1:15-16 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.
  - The Holy Spirit - Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
- We see the agreement of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the new life of believers
  - Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Although there is agreement between the three persons of the Triune God, they are all distinct with different functions.
- When Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. (John 5:19)”, He meant that they are in complete agreement with each other and can’t work contrary to one another.
- Hence, when God raised Jesus from the dead it wasn’t one person or the other that raised Him, but the Triune God working in His absolute oneness – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – that raised Him.

## 3) The sustaining power of the Triune God

- Our confidence in the Triune God having raised Jesus from the dead means that we can have the same confidence for Him to sustain us in life and eternity
  - 1 Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.
  - Colossians 1:17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
  - Romans 8:11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
- The same Triune God who raised Jesus from the dead will sustain and keep you in life and eternity.