

# What We Can Learn From Memorial Day

When we lived in the Midwest, Memorial Day weekend always seemed like the beginning of summer. For our family, it always included planting (or replanting) annual flowers. Flower seeds and bulbs are somewhat homely by themselves, but they hold hidden life and beauty within their uninteresting exterior.

They actually have two realities. One flourishes underground, while the other emerges above the ground. We planted bulbs and seeds with the expectation that they would yield beautiful flowers to enhance our yard and home.

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Memorial Day was also an occasion to remember friends, family, first responders or members of our military who had died. Often, bouquets were placed at their graves or places of memorial to remind everyone that we have two lives and live in two dimensions, physical and spiritual. As Paul told the Corinthians, "They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies. Just as there are natural bodies, there are also spiritual bodies" (1 Cor. 15:44, NLT).

## Natural Bodies and Spiritual Bodies

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We might think of death as a doorway of transformation from physical realities to the spiritual realities to come. When we die, we are not annihilated; we do not enter oblivion or nonexistence. Rather, our bodies and our spirit/soul have

different destinies.

In this earth-based living, we have human bodies made to work in this physical reality. Likewise, when born-again believers in Christ die and shed their physical bodies (similar to the separation of a booster rocket on a missile), we retain the senses of our soul and spirit. First Corinthians 13:12 indicates we will be an even better version of the same person—without the sin, sickness or sorrows of our present physical realities.

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