

Be Certain, the Best is Yet to Come

Living Out Your Faith in Uncertain Times

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

How certain are you that you will go to heaven when you die?

*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. **1 Corinthians 15:19***

John 10:10

Living Out Your Faith in Uncertain times, *The Assurance we have of going to heaven when we die*

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

*We live by faith, not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7***

Three phrases to build our confidence for living in perilous times.

1. "we know"

*Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. **2 Corinthians 5:1***

*Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, **2 Corinthians 5:2***

we know that when these bodies of ours are taken down like tents and folded away, they will be replaced by resurrection bodies in heaven—God-made, not handmade—and we'll never have to relocate our "tents" again. Sometimes we can hardly wait to move—and so we cry out in frustration. Compared to what's coming, living conditions around here seem like a stopover in an unfurnished shack, and we're tired of it! We've been given a glimpse of the real thing, our true home, our resurrection bodies!

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (The Message)

For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 5:4

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:1-3

2. "we are guaranteed"

*Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. **2 Corinthians 5:5***

*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 through his Spirit, who lives in you. **Romans 8:11***

How do you know you have the Holy Spirit living in you?

Have you put your trust in Christ and obeyed His commands?

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

Is the fruit of the Holy Spirit growing in your life?

"By their fruit you will know them." A Tree and Its Fruit—Matthew 7:15-20

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

Are you sensitive to spiritual stimuli?

We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 1 Corinthians 2:12

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Corinthians 2:14

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit of God whets our appetite by giving us a taste of what's ahead. He puts a little of heaven in our hearts so that we'll never settle for less. 2 Corinthians 5:5

3. "we are confident"

Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:6

We are confident I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord." 2 Corinthians 5:8

What happens when we die

The Gradual deterioration of the body

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 2 Corinthians 4:16

The Departure of the spirit

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

Immediate presence with the Lord

2 Corinthians 5:8

Only two Stages for the Christian

—We are either away from the Lord, or we are at home with the Lord.

- **Lazarus and the Rich man—Luke 16**
- **The Repentant Thief on the cross—Luke 23:43**

The granting of a glorified resurrected body at the second coming of Christ

because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 2 Corinthians 5:3

“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. John 5:28-29

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20

“Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit.” Luke 23:46

“Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” Luke 24:39

The Judgment of our works

So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

- **Bema Seat, Believers rewarded—2 Corinthians 5:9-10**
- **Different from the Great White Throne, Judgement of Unrepentant Sinners**
—Revelation 20

*his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames. **1 Corinthians 3:13-15***

2 Corinthians 5:9

*“For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. **Matthew 16:27***

What Happens when we die

- The Gradual deterioration of the body
- The Departure of the spirit
- The granting of a glorified resurrected body at the second coming of Christ
- The Judgment of our works
- Perfection in heaven

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” **Hebrews 11:1***

Be Certain, the Best Is Yet to Come

- When this earthly tent is destroyed, we have an eternal building from God, in the heavens
- We are guaranteed that by the deposit of the Holy Spirit living in our life now
- We are confident that to be absent from the body, is to be present with the Lord
- We live by faith in Him, not by sight

