

2 Corinthians 5:1-8 “Walk By Faith, Not By Sight”

Chapters 4 – 5

- **We have this ministry**

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.

- **We have this treasure**

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

- **We have this Spirit of Faith**

2 Corinthians 4:13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,

- **We do not lose heart**

2 Corinthians 4:16 **Therefore we do not lose heart.**

- **We know – we have a building from God!**

2 Cor. 5:1-8

- Few chapter divisions are more unfortunate than this one since what follows (5:1-8) details the thought expressed in 4:16-18. Failure to appreciate this fact unduly complicates these already difficult verses by removing their contextual constraints. ¹

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

18 **while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.**

1 **For we know** that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

- Paul says: **“We know . . .”**

- We can be assured!

- We can have complete faith

- Paul could have said: “I would not have you ignorant.”

- We are a handmade building of God

- Not the great mansion promised in John 14:1-6

- Our glorified bodies

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 **who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious**

¹Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-c1985). *The Bible knowledge commentary: An exposition of the scriptures*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- Paul spoke of us all as just earthen vessels – jars of clay

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

Romans 7:24 **O wretched man that I am!** Who will deliver me from this body of death?

Romans 8:23-25

23 Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for *it* with perseverance.

3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

14 And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

15 Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

16 For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

17 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!

18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

20 **But now Christ is risen from the dead**, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

7 Facts about our resurrected bodies in Heaven (Willmington's book of Bible lists)

1. It will be a recognizable body. 1 Cor. 13:12
2. It will be a body like Christ's body. 1 John 3:2
3. It will be a body that will permit eating. Luke 24:41–43; John 21:12–13
4. It will be a body in which the spirit predominates. 1 Cor. 15:44, 49
5. It will be a body unlimited by time, gravity, or space. Luke 24:31; John 20:19, 26
6. It will be an eternal body. 2 Cor. 5:1
7. It will be a glorious body. Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 15:43

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²Willmington, H. L. (1987). *Willmington's book of Bible lists*. Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House.

5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 1:13-14

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

6 So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- **Weymouth's Translation:**

"Now faith is a confident assurance of that for which we hope, a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see."

- Phillip Brooks' definition of Faith was:

- Forsaking
- All
- I
- Trust
- Him

- **Little difference between Faith and Belief** (both based on Greek word: "pistis")

- **To Believe: To trust in, adhere to, and rely upon**
 - Belief is mental; faith is actual

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and **the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

- **By sight** (δια ειδους [*dia eidous*]). Rather, **by appearance**.³
- Do you live By Faith or By Appearances?

³Robertson, A. (1997). *Word Pictures in the New Testament*. Vol.V c1932, Vol.VI c1933 by Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. (2 Co 5:7). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems.

- How will you choose to live?
 - Walk to the next point of Faith and wait on the Lord
- **“True faith goes into operation when there are no answers.”**
 - Elisabeth Elliot, missionary and author. *Men of Integrity*, Vol. 1, no. 2.

8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

- **Faith demands:**
 - **Holy confidence**
 - **Blessed assurance**
 - **Sanctified stubbornness**
 - **Glorified worldly ignorance**