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"WE'LL BARELY KNOW WE'VE DIED"

Chapter 4

- v.13-14 Faith in this context is tied with our eternal victory, not necessarily our temporal, circumstantial triumphs. We get raised from the dead; therefore, we don't have to stay alive to win.
- v.15 The mentality is everything for others' sakes -- as more and more people are touched with the treasure in the stuff of our lives, more thanks will come to God from people who are served by us in our dyings.
- v.16 The weight of our message to others comes from our faith in God -- not losing heart -- even when our personal circumstances seem to deny His victory. There is a way to be continually renewed on the inside no matter what is happening on the outside.
- v.17-18 The secret is to view things the way God does. There are two ways to die. We can die in faith with our eyes on the eternal things of God's life, or we can die in despair with our eyes on this earthly life.

Chapter 5:1-5

The fear of dying plagues most humans unless they are fearfully tormented. We shouldn't feel guilty or unspiritual about not wanting to die. But most of our fear -- other than concern for our loved ones -- comes from the way we see death. We wonder and worry what it will be like:

- (1) Another body, spiritual but substantial and distinct, awaits us. It's like moving into a new house -- the house of your dreams. We will never move again or be without that new body.
- (2) Our inner self, our spirit, desperately wants to move. Our spirit feels awkward, out of place, unsettled in its temporary shelter. Actually, our present body is a burden and a hassle to our spirit; it has to be fed, slept, washed, exercised, etc..
- (3) Our present body isn't really alive, it is only animated by the Spirit of God having breathed a measure of life into it. Our flesh is mortal and cannot live without the spiritual; we, on the other hand, are spiritual and we can easily live without the mortal,
- (4) God's whole plan of redemption is to swallow us up in life, to so fill and flood us with real life, that nothing mortal can cling to us. Getting saved and, thereby, receiving the Holy Spirit prepares us to leave every bit of death behind. Just as none of us wants to return to our old way of life, none of us will want to return to our body.