

***Growing Stronger in Christ***

Walking the hard but steady path of spiritual maturity

1 Thessalonians

**Future Fellowship**

Certain hope when grieving for loved ones in Christ

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

*God provides answers about the afterlife and Christ’s return* (v. 13)

Unclear ideas about afterlife

Reincarnation?

Non-existence?

Shadowy figures wandering around?

*Dead believers rise in a resurrected body because Jesus rose after death* (vs. 14-16)

**Romans 5:6**

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**Philippians 3:20-21**

20But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**1 John 3:2-3**

2Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. 3And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

**2 Corinthians 5:6-9**

6So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, 7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

*Living believers are instantly transformed and caught up with the resurrected saints* (v. 17)

**Acts 8:39-40**

39And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Use prophecy to bring encouragement during times of grief and struggle* (v. 18)

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