

1Thessalonians 4

A Walk of Faith, Session 17: Always with the Lord

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,

5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;

6 that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.

8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

9 But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another;

10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more;

11 that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you,

12 that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen



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asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

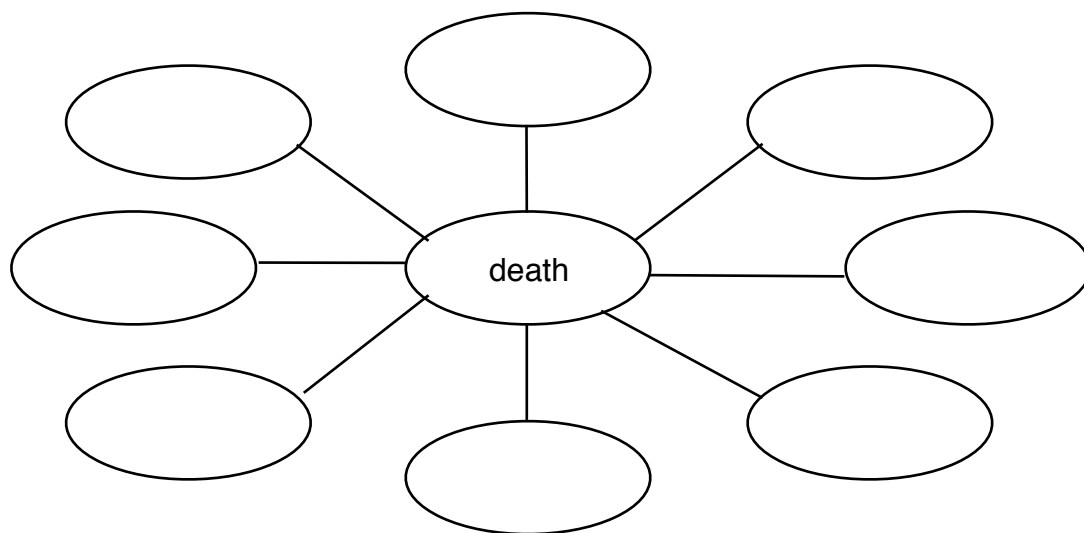
"1 Thessalonians 4 (New King James Version)." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 24 Jun, 2015. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/Bible.cfm?b=1Th&c=4&p=0&rl=0&t=NKJV>>.



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Thank you for taking time out of your busy day to join me for Bible study. You are making an investment for eternity by storing up treasures in heaven. Please take a moment and prepare your heart for our study time through prayer. Ask God to open the eyes of your heart to see the truth of His Word. When you have finished praying, please write your initials on the line: _____.

To ready your mind for our topic today, please fill-in the graphic organizer with words you think of when you hear the word **death**.



Now, please read 1 Thessalonians 4 on pages 1 and 2. Mark, highlight, and underline any words or thoughts God brings to mind as you read His Holy Word.

What is most significant to you today as you read the text?

Please go back to chapter 4 and underline the phrase, "those who have fallen asleep" and its derivatives wherever you find them in chapter 4.



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What do you think of when you hear the phrase, “*those who have fallen asleep*”? What possibilities come to mind?

The words “fallen asleep” make me think there will be a time of awakening. Let’s take a look at this phrase in the original Greek, and see what we can learn. *Those who have fallen asleep* transliterates from one word in the Greek, *koimaō*. *Koimaō* means “to be still, calm, quiet, to die.” Vine’s Expository Dictionary adds a little more information, *Koimaō* also means “of the death of the body, but only of such as are Christ’s; yet never of Christ Himself.” From this definition we can infer the death of a believer in Christ is different than the death of a person outside of Christ.

Why is it important that we not be ignorant about *those who have fallen asleep*?

What wonderful assurance do we have from the end of verse 13?

There is a common saying, “Where there’s life, there’s hope.” But, in Christ Jesus, where there is death, there is hope.

Let’s look at some Bible verses that speak of the hope we have in death because of Christ. Please look up the following verses and list the blessings we have in death.

2 Corinthians 5:6–8

John 14:1–4

1 Thessalonians 5:9–11



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Philippians 3:20-21

Of all the blessings you recorded above, which means the most to you and why?

With all these benefits in mind, please go back to page three and make any changes and additions you wish to make on your graphic organizer.

Please go back and read verse 13-15 again and record every piece of information you learn about *“those who have fallen asleep in Christ.”*

Now please read verse 16. What phrase in verse 16 is used interchangeably for *“those who have fallen asleep”*?

Go back to verse 16 and draw a tombstone with a cross above the phrase *dead in Christ*.

As Christians, we need to rethink the concept of death. Death is not just an end; it is a beginning. Consider for a moment our first birth; We were happy, warm, and safe in the shelter of our mother's womb ... but it was also dark, cramped and isolated. Think of the depth of relationship we had with our mother in those circumstances. Now, compare it to the relational possibilities afforded after birth. After birth, we can clearly see, hear, touch and talk with both our parents. 1 Corinthians 13:12 states,

“12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

We must remember, mirrors, in biblical times, were often made of polished metal (bronze or copper). Some versions use the words **a glass darkly** in place of the word *mirror*. Think of your smart phone. When you pull it out of your



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pocket or clutch you see a very unflattering effigy of yourself in a **glass darkly**. Thankfully, that **glass darkly** image is not the real you. Likewise, life on this earth, (*a life darkly*) is not all there is. We look forward to a life after death, where we shall see, hear and touch Him as He is. Where we will walk, relate and worship Him to depths we can only dream of in this present shadow life.

Please read verse 16-17 again and list the order of events descibed in these verses.

Please fill in the missing words from verse 17:

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be _____

with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air."

Caught up comes transliterates as *harpazo*, which means "to seize, to claim one's self eagerly, used of divine power transferring a person marvelously and swiftly from one place to another."

Now please go back to page two and underline the last sentence in verse 17.

Write the phrase you underlined in the space provided.

A more literal translation is, " ... and so we shall **ever be** with the Lord" (emphasis mine).

Please say the above phrase out loud. We shall **ever be** with the Lord. No more *never be, may be, could be, will one day be*, but **ever be!** Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior, He is always with us, and one day, one glorious day, we shall **always be** with the Lord. Thank you for joining me today.

by Mary Kane
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