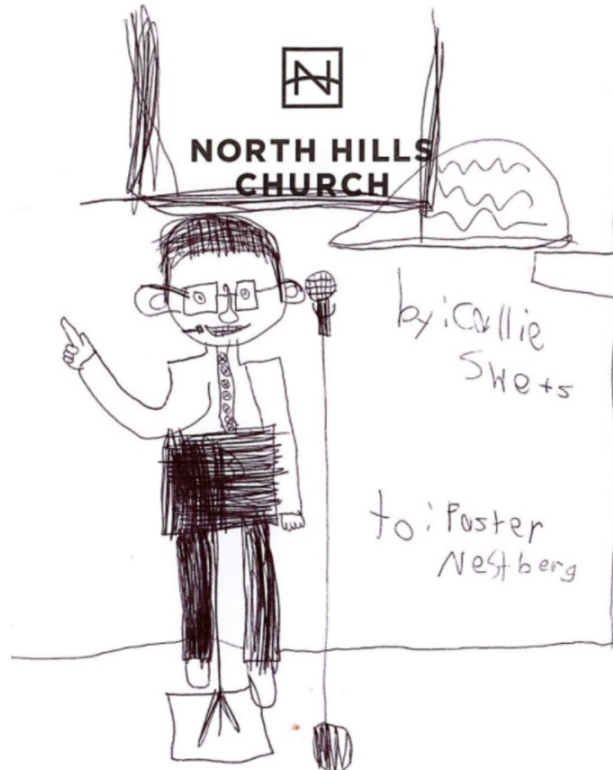


Walking by Faith, Not by Sight  
2 Corinthians 5:1-10



I have no greater **JOY**  
than to hear that my children are walking in the **TRUTH**.  
3 John 1:4

The emotional landscape that surrounds death:

**fear**

**fear**

**denial** and **avoidance**

**fear**

**denial and avoidance**

**uncertainty**

**fear**

**denial and avoidance**

**uncertainty**

**clinging**

**fear**

**denial and avoidance**

**uncertainty**

**clinging**

**anger**

“rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

Dylan Thomas

**fear**

**denial and avoidance**

**uncertainty**

**clinging**

**anger**

**meaninglessness**

**fear**

**denial and avoidance**

**uncertainty**

**clinging**

**anger**

**meaninglessness**

**isolation**

"The very happiest persons I have ever met with have been departing believers.

"I have come down many times from the sick chamber of those who are now in the upper house, and I have done so with faith confirmed and joy increased."

Charles Spurgeon

“knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.”

2 Corinthians 4:14

Union with Christ = the intimate, unbreakable **bond** between the **believer** and **Jesus Christ**

Because we are united to the crucified and risen Christ, we have an eternal hope that the world cannot manufacture and death cannot destroy.

And that hope transforms everything.  
What naturally produces fear becomes  
anticipation.

What naturally produces uncertainty and doubt becomes assurance.

What naturally produces despair and  
meaninglessness becomes holy aspiration.

# Three Movements

1. Our eternal hope in Christ awakens our **anticipation**. (1-5)

- The **tent** and the **building**

- The tent and the building
- The **permission to groan**

“When we act like death is no problem, we are not just being dishonest about the world as it is. We not only join our culture denial and enable our collective self-deception.

“We also diminish what Christ came to offer us and rob ourselves of the perspective from which his promises come alive.

“What we experience now is far from the tearless world we have been promised.

“Death is the separation of good things not meant to be sundered. It separates a person from family and friends. It separates the soul from the body and the body from the earth.

“Whatever joy may mark the current state of believers who have died, it is not what it will be, yet. Death is not ok.

“By avoiding the subject of death, we act like that’s not true. And we shrink down the scale of Jesus’s victory to fit the world we live in now.

“The Bible’s perspective on death is far more diverse and honest than merely a path to a better place . . .

“We have no reason to hide from the truth about death in all its ugliness. If death is not a problem, Jesus won’t be much of a solution.

“The more deeply we feel death’s sting, the more consciously we will feel the gospel’s healing power.

“The more carefully we number our days, the more joyfully we’ll hear that death’s days are numbered too.

“And the more we allow ourselves to grieve  
the separations death brings into our lives,

“the more fully we will long for the world in which ‘he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,

“neither shall there be mourning, nor crying,  
nor pain anymore.”

Matthew McCullough

“Death was not part of God’s original design. We were not created to age, weaken, fade, and die. We were not created for love relationships that end in death.

“Death is an intrusion, a result of sin and our human race’s turning away from God.

“Our sense even now that we were made to last, that we were made for love without parting, is a memory trace of our divine origins.

“We are trapped in a world of death, a world for which we were not designed.”

Tim Keller

- The tent and the building
- The permission to groan
- The **guarantee of the Spirit**

- The tent and the building
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- The **guarantee of the Spirit**  
guarantee = down payment

2. Our eternal hope in Christ anchors our **assurance**. (6-8)

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“So we are always of good courage.” (6a)

“We are afflicted in every way, but not  
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair;

“persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down,  
but not destroyed. . . . So we do not lose  
heart.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-9, 16a

“for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (7)

“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things,

“that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

“and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Hebrews 2:14-15

“Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:54b-55

“Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (8)

“My desire is to depart and be with Christ,  
for that is far better.”

Philippians 1:23b

3. Our eternal hope in Christ activates our **aspiration**. (9-10)

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“we make it our aim to please him.” (9b)

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (10)

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:1

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day,”

2 Timothy 4:7-8a

“I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world. Yet when Christ calls me home, I shall go with the gladness of a boy bounding away from school.”

Adoniram Judson

For those who are in Christ -

For those who are not yet in Christ -

“For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O death, where is your victory?  
O death, where is your sting?”

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

“But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:53-58