

We Shall Meet Him in The Air³

10/20/24

Every Christian hopes to someday live in the eternal presence of the Lord Jesus Christ with their loved ones. Heaven is promised to everyone who believes in the work of Jesus Christ. He died for our sins so that we would become the righteousness of God through His death, burial, and resurrection. We understand that it is not enough to believe that Jesus Christ merely existed; we must be willing to suffer for HIS SAKE as a disciple and a living witness. As such, we come before him daily to deny ourselves, Take Up Our Cross, and follow Him by walking in the spirit! With discipline from the Holy Spirit, we live to please God by sharing Jesus Christ with others as we pursue our heavenly home.

Heaven is worth every broken heart, every injustice, every loss of limb, every loss of sight, every loss of hearing, and every loss of earthly life in pursuit of holiness.

Hebrews 12:14 NIV *Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness, no one will see the Lord.*

As Christians, being like Christ, we must resist the devil's suggestions to say or do things that do not reflect a Holy Spirit-filled life! **2 Corinthians 10:5** says, **"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. We must take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ."** Taking your thoughts captive means gaining control over what you think about your life and life's circumstances. Taking captive your thoughts... means choosing what you allow to take root in your mind. **Ephesians 4:29 NIV** *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

Scripture Text: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 ESV

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. **14** For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. **15** For this, we declare to you by a word from the Lord that we who are alive and who are left until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep. **16** For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound

of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

VERSE 13 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.*

Paul reminded the Believers in Thessalonica not to dwell on those who had gone to be with the Lord. We can become stuck in grief, wasting time and energy in fulfilling our purpose of reaching others with the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus. We must continue allowing the Lord to work in us to will and do for His good pleasure and not to grieve the Holy Spirit's prompting.

VERSE 14 *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*

The certainty of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead with all power and His promise to return for us brings us great joy. All those who have received Jesus as Savior and fulfilled their mission on earth will be raised from their rest and meet the Lord upon His return. They will receive a new body fit for heavenly living because their earthly body came with an expiration date. **Psalms 37:18:** *"The Lord numbers the days of the upright, and their heritage will be forever."*

VERSE 15 *For this, we declare to you by a word from the Lord that we who are alive and who are left until the coming of the Lord will not precede those who have fallen asleep.*

We who are still a witness to Jesus Christ will meet those whom God has called from the four corners of the world.... Body and spirit will join Him together along with the living. What a sight that will be worldwide in the blink of an eye... over and out!

Cares all passed, home, at last, praise God... praise God home at last!

VERSE 16 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*

The dead in Christ are those who have confessed with their mouths. **Romans 10:9-10 NIV** **9** *If you declare with your mouth, “**Jesus is Lord,**” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, **you will be saved.*** **10** *For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

The opposite of confession means you will not be saved according to the word. Incredibly, people can boldly declare their political views without blinking! When it comes to Christ... “Mums the word!” **Luke 9:26 NIV** ***Whoever is ashamed of me, and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.***

VERSE 17 *Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

After all the deceased in Christ have been caught up from their graves or cremains cast upon the waters or blown in the air, the remaining believers will be caught up afterward.

This is assuring because we were sealed with the spirit of promise when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

VERSE 18 *Therefore, encourage one another with these words.*

Applications:

Our Lord has never made a promise that He will not fulfill in His time.

We confidently trust Him now and forever as we testify of His love for us.