

Faith longs to be with the Lord

God the Holy Spirit energises faith within Christians which longs to be with the Lord, and expresses itself in two ways. **First**, faith desires to see the Lord's character present in your daily living. Faith is authenticated and affirmed within you when evidence of Jesus character is experienced in your beliefs, attitudes, behaviour, and responses. **Second**, faith grows your desire to be with Jesus in person, in His native environment – Heaven.



Christ centred faith begins by acknowledging that your acceptability to God has nothing to do with you, but is entirely based on what Jesus Christ did on your behalf on the cross of Calvary. Faith says; *"through him (Jesus) we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:2). Therefore, the certainty of your relationship with God is Christ, and in Christ you stand spiritually secure for eternity. This is because Jesus alone has given you access into an undeserved and loving relationship with God the Father (Eph 3:11-12).

Hope for glory

Notice also, that in Christ, believers *"rejoice in hope of the glory of God"* (Romans 5:2b). Hope expresses itself through your spiritual desire; your longing for the Lord Jesus Christ to be glorified in your present daily living. However, hope

does not stop there; it grows anticipation to not only be in heaven with the Saviour, but for your Saviour to return to take you to be with Him. Only when you are with the Lord will total and absolute glorification be accomplished.

Shortly before His crucifixion, Jesus was comforting His confused disciples with the certainty of not only heaven but His return to take them to heaven. Jesus, the creator of heaven and earth, told them; *"I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also"* (John 14:2-3). The certainty of Christ returning to rapture His Church lifts the believer's focus from the dark uncertainties of this world and life's failures.

With that said, we all understand that believers go through difficult times. Sooner or later the pains of living in a sin governed world impacts the child of God. Consequently, dependant belief in Christ will *"groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling"* (2 Corinthians 5:2). Faith transitions spiritual pain; it matures pain into both an expression (*"groan"*) and a desire (*"longing"*) to be liberated from this earthly struggle to the glorious heavenly presence of Christ.

Join the dots

Make no mistake; this spiritual maturing does not happen accidentally or without reason. This is the result of Spirit filled living by lives filled with the Word of God (Gal 5:22-25; Eph 3:18; Col 3:15-16). The Holy Spirit's fruit in your life will be undeniable and humanly unexplainable. Human weaknesses, fleshly failings, disappointments, and everyday inconsistencies will fade and diminish when your growing focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ (2Co 3:18).

I encourage *"you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession"* (Hebrews 3:1). *"Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord"* (Hebrews 12:14).

Strive to make the connection in you thinking; your *"heavenly calling"* in Christ is to impact your relationships with peace resulting from holiness. These qualities give testimony to, and affirmation of the certainty of seeing the Lord as you grow faith that longs to be with the Lord.

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