

Studies In Second Corinthians

(II Corinthians 4:13-5:11)

1. Did Paul teach in full faith of what he was saying?

Yes: *"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (II Corinthians 4:13).*

- **Psalms 116:10, Acts 15:7-11, Romans 10:8, Romans 14:23, and II Peter 1:16-21.**
- Faith comes from the heart (**Ephesians 3:17**), as do our words (**Matthew 12:34**).

2. Can we know that we'll be raised up to be with the Lord and the saints?

Yes: *"Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you" (II Corinthians 4:14).*

- **I John 5:19-20; cf. John 11:25-26, I Corinthians 6:14, I Corinthians 15:20-22, II Corinthians 5:1, and I Thessalonians 4:13-18.**

3. Is the work of true teaching selfish?

No: *"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God" (II Corinthians 4:15).*

- **II Corinthians 4:5, Colossians 1:24, I Thessalonians 1:5, and II Timothy 2:10.**
- Abundant grace (**Romans 5:17, I Timothy 1:14, and I Peter 1:3**).
- Glory to God (**Romans 16:27, I Peter 4:11, and Jude 25**).

4. As our physical bodies decay, should we focus our attention on that or on something else?

Focus on the things that are eternal: *"(16) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. (17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; (18) While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal" (II Corinthians 4:16-18).*

- We should not faint (**Psalms 27:13 and Galatians 6:9**).
- Our flesh will fail (**Psalms 73:26**).
- Our inward man should be encouraged by God's word (**Romans 7:22 and Ephesians 3:16**).
- Our suffering is brief (**James 5:10-11**) as life in this world is brief (**James 4:13-16**).
- Don't focus on what we see in this life (**Romans 8:24-25 and Hebrews 11:1**).
- Focus on what is eternal (**I John 2:25**).

5. When your physical body is dissolved, what do you have to look forward to?

An eternal body made of God: *“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (II Corinthians 5:1).*

- As we addressed in **II Corinthians 4:14**, we can have surety about what is to come for our souls (**II Timothy 1:12** and **I John 3:2**).
- The tabernacle is in reference to the body wherein your soul dwells here on earth (**II Peter 1:13-14**).
- That is an eternal home awaiting us (**John 14:1-3**).

6. What caused Paul and Timothy to groan?

The desire to leave their earthly bodies for eternal bodies: *“(2) For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: (3) If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. (4) For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life” (II Corinthians 5:2-4).*

- **Romans 8:23** and **Philippians 1:21-26**.

7. What earnest [security] was given to Paul and Timothy that gave them confidence in the life to come?

The Holy Spirit: *“(5) Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. (6) Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord” (II Corinthians 5:5-6).*

- Prior to the word of God being completely revealed, an Apostle laid hands on someone to give them the Spirit as an earnest (**Ephesians 1:13-14**; cf. **Acts 19:1-7**).
- You and I can have our confidence through the word (**John 5:39**), whereas they needed confidence through the Spirit when the word had not been fully revealed (**I John 3:24** and **I John 4:13**).

8. Was it the earnest that God gave or was it faith that caused them to walk spiritually?

Faith: *“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)” (II Corinthians 5:7).*

- **Galatians 2:20** and **Hebrews 10:38**.
- Looking at things through carnal eyes will only slow us down. Faith is what truly moves us in the direction we need to go (**Hebrews 11:1-40**).

9. What did Paul and Timothy have confidence in that caused them to labor?

Confident in the ability to be with the Lord and therefore the labored to be accepted of Him: *"(8) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (9) Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him"* (**II Corinthians 5:8-9**).

- Again, confidence is the underlying principle (**I John 2:28**).
- Confidence in the reward is a motivator to work (**John 6:26-27, I Corinthians 15:58, and Hebrews 6:10-12**).

10. Who will we stand before Christ on the Judgment Day?

Christ: *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad"* (**II Corinthians 5:10**).

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Matthew 25:31-46, John 5:28-29, Acts 17:30-31, and Romans 14:11-12.**

11. What motivated Paul and Timothy to persuade men to obey the Lord?

The terror of the Lord: *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences"* (**II Corinthians 5:11**).

- God's judgment is to be feared (**Job 31:23, Psalms 76:7, Nahum 1:6, Luke 12:4-5, and Hebrews 10:26-31**).
- Knowing the terror of the Lord, the faithful need to warn the lost (**Ezekiel 3:17 and Colossians 1:28**).