



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Holy Spirit: Our Downpayment | 2 Cor. 5:1-10

1. Are there any "camping / tent experiences" that you can recall in your life that illustrate Paul's point about our bodies being "a tent"—a temporary "earth suit."
2. II Cor. 5:2: Paul speaks about "groaning - longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling." Have you found yourself "groaning" lately? What was that about? Is there a "significant other" in your life who is "groaning" in some way? Have you been able to be of help of encouragement?
3. The New Testament & our Creeds strongly emphasize the reality of eternal life and heaven—"a mansion" we exchange for "a tent." But does that seem pie-in-the-sky? Can the things of earth get so weighty and burdensome that we lose touch with the promise and hope of heaven? How can we (should we?) cultivate more of a heavenly perspective in our earthly pilgrimage?
4. Do you know a person (old or young) whose tent is "wasting away"—but whose "inner man (the temple) is being renewed and rejuvenated day by day" (II Cor. 4:16). Share something about that person's faith or witness that makes him/her an example to others.
5. From the poem "The Race"—can you identify with the boy running, who fell 3 times? Has there been a father figure in your life to stand with and for you in such a time of defeat, and cheer you on? How did that impact you?
6. Have you ever failed at something? How did you handle it, or learn from it?
7. Is there 1 person in your life who is "down in the race" that you could encourage or help in the coming week? Share (or decide within) how you might do that for him/her. How might that relate to II Cor. 5:9: "We make it our goal to PLEASE HIM."
8. For an inspiring story of a "tent being taken down" (II Cor. 5:1) at relatively young age, see:

Deathisnotdying.com

This is the poignant story of Rachel Barkey, diagnosed with cancer 4 years ago, and now given just a few weeks or months to live. It is a powerful illustration of "the outer man wasting away, but the inner person (the temple) being renewed and rejuvenated day by day" (II Cor. 4:16).

NEXT WEEK:

A New Creation

2 Cor. 5:14-21



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Holy Spirit: Our Downpayment | 2 Cor. 4:16 - 5:10

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Our Heavenly Dwelling

^{5:1}For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For 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.

NEXT WEEK:

A New Creation
2 Cor. 5:14–21