

Are You Ready? 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Are you ready to grieve differently?

📖 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 (NIV) “Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.”

1. We have a choice in how we will grieve others.
2. We have a choice in how others will grieve us.

Are you ready to vanish instantly?

📖 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17a (NIV) According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.”

1. It means to be taken suddenly.

📖 Acts 8:39 (NIV) “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.”

2. It means to be taken forcefully.

📖 Acts 23:10 (NIV) “The dispute became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks.”

Are you ready to live eternally?

📖 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18 (NIV) “...we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

📖 Revelation 20:4b–6 (NIV) “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

📖 John 3:3 (NIV) “...Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

📖 Romans 6:23 (NIV) “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

📖 Revelation 20:14 (NIV) “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.”

Digging Deeper: Do you believe that Jesus will return in your lifetime? Are you ready for the Lord’s return? Are your friends ready? If the Rapture were to happen today, who do you know that would be left behind?



What is God telling you to say to them? Do you know for sure where will you spend eternity?