



Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–10.

## Icebreaker

What is the most expensive or favorite thing you've ever owned that broke, shattered, or died way sooner than it was supposed to? Did it have a warranty, or were you just out of luck?

## Daily Devotions

Day 1 : Get It

1. What word does Paul use to describe our earthly physical body in verse 1?
2. In verse 2, what does Paul say we are doing while in our current "dwelling"?
3. Verse 7 provides a famous contrast; what do we walk by, and what do we NOT walk by?
4. Whether at home or away, what is the specific goal or "aim" mentioned in verse 9?
5. What determines what each person receives at the judgment described in verse 10?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: Built to Last: Why Your "Tent" isn't the Final Version

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:1–4.

It's totally normal to care about how you look. Whether it's hitting the gym to get stronger, spending time on your hair, or picking out the perfect outfit, taking care of yourself is a good thing! However, it's important to make sure we don't let our appearance become the most important thing in our lives.

The reality is that physical looks don't last forever. As we age, bodies get tired, skin gets wrinkled, and hair changes. To explain this, the Apostle Paul uses a great comparison: **our physical bodies are like tents**.

### The Tent vs. The Building

Think about the difference between a tent and a house:

- **A Tent:** It's temporary, fragile, and meant for a short trip. It wears out easily in the wind and rain.
- **A Building:** It's solid, permanent, and built to last.

Paul explains that while we are on Earth, we live in these "tents" (our current bodies). We should respect them and take care of them because they are **temples of the Holy Spirit**<sup>1</sup>, but we shouldn't get too discouraged when they start to wear out.

### The Best is Yet to Come

The most encouraging part of Paul's message is that we aren't stuck with "tents" forever. He explains that one day, God will provide us with **resurrected bodies**. He describes this like putting on brand-new, permanent clothing that never wears out.

Instead of a temporary shelter that gets tired and weak, we have an eternal home waiting for us in heaven. So, while it is good to stay healthy and take care of yourself, remember that the most important **transformation** isn't what we see in the mirror today—it's the eternal life and perfect body God has promised us in the future.

6. Paul compares our bodies to a tent. What are the characteristics of a tent, and why is that such a powerful metaphor for our earthly lives?

7. When you feel the groaning of physical exhaustion or sickness, how should the promise of an eternal building change your perspective on your current body?

8. Do you look forward to your heavenly home? Why or why not?

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<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 6:19–20

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: The Ultimate Warranty: Guaranteed for Life (and Beyond)

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:5.

#### The Problem with "Limited" Warranties

Think about the last time you bought something you really cared about—maybe a new pair of Jordans, a gaming headset, or a phone. Most of the time, those things come with a **warranty**. It's a promise from the company: *"If this breaks, we'll fix it."*

But there's usually a catch. Some warranties only last a year. Others last five. Even a "lifetime warranty" only works as long as you're alive and the company is still in business. Eventually, everything we own—and even our own physical bodies—starts to wear out.

#### The Holy Spirit: God's "Down Payment"

When you put your trust in Jesus, God gives you a **lifetime guarantee** that actually outlasts your physical life. But He doesn't just give you a piece of paper or a digital receipt.

#### He gives you a deposit.

The Bible says that the moment we believe, God places the **Holy Spirit** inside of us. Think of the Holy Spirit as God's "seal" or a "down payment" on your future. It's like God putting a deposit down on a house to prove He is 100% committed to buying it.

#### You Don't Have to Wait for Heaven

Here is the coolest part: your "eternal life" doesn't actually start the day you die. **It starts the moment you believe.** Because the Holy Spirit lives in you *right now*, you can start experiencing a "restored relationship" with God today. You don't have to wait until you're in heaven to talk to Him, feel His peace, or get His guidance. You are living out the first chapter of your eternal life right this second.

#### The Final Upgrade

When your time on Earth is over, the warranty doesn't expire—it actually reaches its full potential.

1. **Recognition:** God sees the Holy Spirit already living inside you.
2. **Presence:** You enter fully into the presence of God.
3. **The New Body:** One day, you'll receive a "glorified body"—a resurrected version of you that never gets tired, never gets sick, and never wears out.

Your "tent" (your current body) might have a limited shelf life, but your soul has an eternal guarantee.

9. **What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be a guarantee or down payment? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's presence in your own Christian walk?**

10. **Read John 14:16–17 and Ephesians 1:13–14. What advantages do you have in life over those in the world who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus?**

11. **How can you practically lean on the Holy Spirit as your guarantee when you feel uncertain about your future?**

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: The God-Sized Hole

### Read 2 Corinthians 5:6–9.

You were created for one main reason: **to have a relationship with God**. Think about that for a second. The same God who designed the galaxies and thought up the DNA in your body actually wants to know *you*. Being close to Him isn't just a "religious duty"—it's actually where your greatest joy and deepest satisfaction come from.

### The Problem of the "Void"

There was a 17<sup>th</sup>-century genius named **Blaise Pascal**. He was a world-class mathematician and physicist, but he also understood the human heart. He's famous for the idea that every person is born with a "**God-sized hole**" inside of them.

Because we feel that empty space, we spend a lot of time trying to cram things into it to see if they fit. We try to fill it with:

- Getting the best grades or sports stats.
- Having the perfect friend group or a relationship.
- Social media, gaming, and endless entertainment.
- Buying the newest clothes or gear.

While those things can be great, they are "human-sized," and they'll never fill a "God-sized" space. They eventually leave us feeling empty again.

### Living by Faith, Not by Sight

Today's verses remind us that if we get *too* comfortable or obsessed with the stuff on earth, we're missing the point. It's not wrong to enjoy your life, your friends, or your hobbies—God gave those things to us! But we shouldn't put our ultimate hope in things we can see.

Instead, we are called to **live by faith, not by sight**. This means we don't let our bank accounts, our follower counts, or our trophies define us. We keep our eyes locked on **Jesus**, who is the "Author and Perfecter" of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).

Through Jesus, that "hole" is finally filled, and our relationship with God is made right. Because of that, our new goal is simple: to live a life that makes Him proud!

**12. Who do you like to spend time with and why do you like spending time with them? What do you do when you spend time together?**

**13. What things have you tried to fill that God-sized hole in your life?**

14. What does it look like to live by faith and not by sight?

15. If you were to be at home with the Lord today, what unfinished business would you regret leaving behind?

## Day 5 Today's Theme: Two Judgments: What Happens Next?

### Read Revelation 5:10.

Let's be real: the idea of standing before God to be "judged" can sound pretty intimidating. But for a follower of Jesus, understanding how this works actually brings a lot of peace and motivation. There are two distinct "courtrooms" described in the Bible, and they serve two very different purposes.

#### 1. The Great White Throne (The "Where" Judgment)

The first judgment is about your **eternal destination**. In Revelation 20:11–15, the Bible describes the Great White Throne. This isn't about how many "good things" you did versus "bad things." You can't earn your way through this one.

- **The Criteria:** It's strictly about whether you have repented (turned away from your sin) and put your total trust in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- **The Result:** Those who have faith in Jesus have their names written in the **Book of Life**. They are spared from the "lake of fire" and welcomed into heaven forever.

#### 2. The Bema Seat (The "Reward" Judgment)

The second judgment, found in **2 Corinthians 5:10**, is for believers *only*. If you've trusted in Jesus, your "where" (Heaven) is already guaranteed and hell is cancelled. This judgment is about what you did with the life God gave you.

Think of it like an awards ceremony at the end of a sports season rather than a criminal trial. To help us understand this, check out this description:

"A bema was a raised platform on which judges sat to view athletic games. Their job was to make sure contestants followed the rules and to present awards to the victors (see 1 Corinthians 9:24–27). The bema was never a place to reprimand the athletes or to punish them in any way. It was a place of testing and reward. In the same way, the bema of Christ will not be a place of condemnation or censure."<sup>2</sup>

#### Why Does This Matter?

Since our eternity is secure in Jesus, we don't serve Him because we're *afraid* of punishment. We serve Him because we love Him! We want to use our time, our talents, and our kindness to honor Him, knowing that He sees everything we do for Him and loves to reward His children.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.gotquestions.org/judgment-seat-Christ.html#:~:text=In%20the%20Greek%2C%20a%20single,place%20of%20condemnation%20or%20censure.>

16. When you hear the word "Judgment," what is the first thing that comes to your mind? Is it a scary feeling or a positive one? Why?
17. If someone asked you, "How do I get my name in that book?", based on what we just read, how would you explain it to them in one minute?
18. How does the "Athletic Awards" analogy change the way you think about standing before Jesus?
19. If Heaven is already "guaranteed" for a believer, why should we still care about doing good things? Does it change your "why"?