



Ride or Die 4 – At the Door of Death Spiritual Formation Guide

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or with a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take a next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. ²We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. ³For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. ⁴While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. ⁵God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit.

⁶So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. ⁷For we live by believing and not by seeing. ⁸Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. ¹⁰For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body. 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

"Dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died, so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves."

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Reflection Questions:

- Are you a camping person or a hotel person? Why?
- What are some of the things you've heard people say about life after death outside of church settings?
- What stood out to you from Sunday's service? How did you sense God at work in you through the songs, the message, and being together with others as part of the church? (The message main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you remember.)

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-11. If possible, read them from several different translations, and listen to them being read by someone (in your group or using the app). What do you notice? Is there a word or phrase that stands out that you want to hold onto?
- Look over the scriptures and main points below from Eddie's teaching.
 - What challenged you from the teaching?
 - What comforted you?
- Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13. How does this passage help you understand how to approach death?
- What do you want to say to Jesus about any of this? (Take a moment to write down your response and prayer – you can be honest with him.)

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at www.wschurch.org/resources. These resources can be purchased using the links or are available for a small donation at the Next Steps area on Sunday mornings.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- Hebrews 9:27 - "Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment."
- The metaphor the Bible uses to help us understand our bodies is a **TENT**, which is the perfect metaphor for the human body.
- 2 Corinthians 5:1 - "We know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands."
- 2 Corinthians 5:4 - "While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh..."
- **What if the most important thing we can discuss now is later?**
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 - "God has planted eternity in the human heart."
- **When I die, my spirit and body will separate.**
- 2 Corinthians 5:6 - "We are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord... we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord."
- **When I die, I will know my destiny.**
- Some people are **universalists**.
- Some people are **annihilationists**.
- 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 - "When the Lord Jesus appears from heaven, he will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don't know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus."
- Most of know that there is a teaching called **purgatory** to which some believers ascribe.
- Matthew 25:46 - "They will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body."
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 - "Dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died, so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves."