

WALKING IN WISDOM (**Colossians 4:5**) Number #80

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
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You Can Make It Through!

The trials and difficulties of life often seem overwhelming. They can weigh us down heavily. Sadly, many Christians do not survive them with their faith intact. In 2 Corinthians 4, Paul gives us some encouragement that we can make it through with our faith stronger than ever.

First, let's note that Paul himself was not immune to the burdens of life. In v.8 he admits, *"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed."* What is it that caused him to be so optimistic and hopeful even in dark times? He gives a great list in the following verses:

- * **Keep Jesus' sacrifice in mind** (v.9-12). Paul was *"always carrying about...the dying of the Lord Jesus."* It was always on his heart and mind. Those thoughts guided the way he lived and spoke.
- * **Keep trusting in the Bible** (v.13). Paul had faith in the things *"according to what is written."* He believed and relied upon the words and promises of God as recorded in His word.
- * **Keep remembering that better things are coming** (v.14). Paul was confident that God would *"raise us up with Jesus."* He knew that even if his current problems led to death, that would not be the end. It would be the beginning of a better life.
- * **Keep a right attitude** (v.15). Paul kept on keeping on *"for your sakes"* and *"to the glory of God."* He knew that the right mindset would positively influence others and exalt God.
- * **Keep each day as a fresh start** (v.16). Paul knew that *"the inward man is being renewed day by day."* He was certain that God would give him strength for the day.

What great reminders to us! We can make it through anything! Hang in there and keep the things that Paul kept dear. *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal"* (v.17-18).

- Edd Sterchi

Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: "Are there real ghosts and goblins?"

REPLY: There is more folklore than fact in these things that scare. No bodies have been released from their graves until Jesus calls us all forth for the Judgment Day (**Hebrews 9:27-28**).

1. Scared, Of What? What scares you this time of the year? Is it houses haunted by fake "ghosts and goblins?" Or is it sights and sounds that are not human and hard to identify? Or is it make-believe "zombies," "vampires," or "werewolves?" The only time dead people walked the earth again was when Jesus Christ died on the cross, an earthquake opened graves, "and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many" (**Matthew 27:52-53**). They proved Jesus was raised from the dead, not that we should fear the night. If you obey God, then "When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet" (**Proverbs 3:24**).

2. Jesus Is No Ghost. After Jesus fed a multitude of 5000 men, not counting women and children, with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, He sent His disciples on the sea of Galilee ahead of Him. "But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid'" (**Matthew 14:24-27**). They were afraid when they thought they were dealing with a "ghost," or out-of-body being, but were mistaken. Faith in Jesus Christ overcomes fear.

3. Jesus Is No Zombie. "But the angel answered and said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay'" (**Matthew 28:5-6**). An "angel of the Lord" opened Jesus' tomb on the first day of the week. When the women came to His tomb, it was opened, and the angel had to say, "Do not be afraid." Death is so final, people are afraid to think a body has escaped its tomb. There is a difference in make-believe "Zombies," and a resurrected body. Jesus was no "Zombie," for "He is risen," that is, His body lived again. The thought of make-believe "Zombies" creates fear, the actual fact of Jesus' resurrection creates faith! "Do not be afraid."

---jtpII

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Father, may we be completely united, as Jesus prayed, so that the people of the world will know You sent Him and that You loved them as You loved Jesus. (John 17:23)



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YOU DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF HEART YOU WILL HAVE!

➔ WILLING-HEARTED . . . For God's Work

■ Exodus 35:22

➔ WISE-HEARTED . . . Knowing God's Will

■ Exodus 38:10-25

➔ WHOLE-HEARTED . . . Devoted to His Word

■ Psalm 119:134



WHAT KIND OF HEART DO YOU HAVE?

Chart Idea: Sermon Outlines on the Christian Life by John Ritchie

Barnes' Bible Charts

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ Sorrow looks back . . . worry looks around . . . and faith looks up.
- ~ There are no degrees of honesty.
- ~ Love at first sight is often cured by a second look.
- ~ "An open enemy is better than a false friend." Greek Proverb
- ~ "Keep the faith, hold on. Things will get better. It might be stormy now, but it can't rain forever." — Faith Quote