

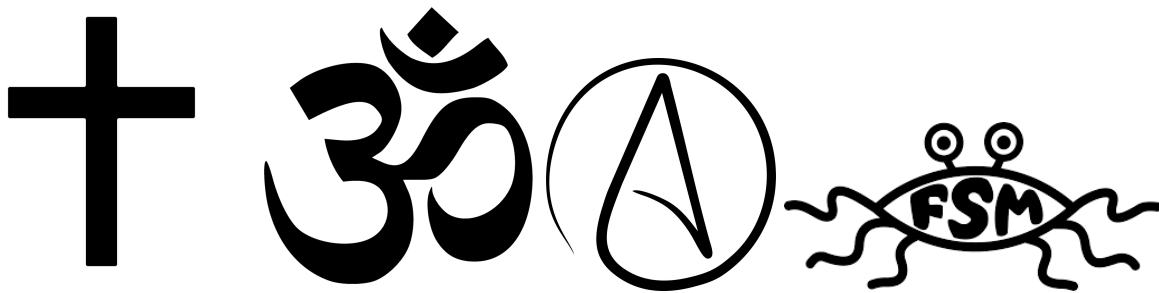
**How To Confidently Face Death
With Confidence Pt 4**

Share Highs and Lows from past week

Community Group Questions:

1. What were the earliest thoughts or experiences you had in regards to death?
2. Why is death so rarely talked about in our culture?
3. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. How does this help when we experience loss?
4. Read the quote from Dwight Moody. Do you have this confidence? Why or why not?

Close in prayer



Death destroys CONFIDENCE.

Death INTERRUPTS.

Death TEARS.

Death INSULTS.

Death ATTACKS.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 *Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, **who have no hope**. 14 For 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.*

Gospel GRIEVING is not bitter, nor angry, nor stifling but rather intellectual, hopeful, and comforting.

Christianity doesn't leave you to face death on your own, by holding up your life record and hoping it will suffice. Instead it gives you a champion who has defeated death, who pardons you and covers you with his love. Tim Keller

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 *According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until 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. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore **encourage** one another with these words.*

Christ's **SECOND** coming builds confidence.

3 Key Truths:

1. *Jesus will return and if you are alive you will be united with Him forever.*
2. *Jesus will return and any Christian who dies is already with Him forever.*
3. *Jesus will return and you will be reunited with His people forever.*

Pretty soon you will read in Chicago papers that Dwight Moody is dead. Don't you believe it. I'll be more alive than I am right now. -Dwight Moody

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

Death used to be an executioner, but the Gospel makes him just the gardener. George Herbet

BOTTOM LINE: Be confident, death for a Christian isn't a defeat but a **VICTORY**.