

November 1, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

2 Cor. 5:6-7 *Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the LORD. For we live by faith, not by sight.* (NIV)

One aspect of our present life is that we can know that He is still working on us. He is constantly making us into the likeness of His Son. I heard an old analogy of a man who was going through many earthly trials. One morning he was taking a walk through his neighborhood and saw a construction crew working on a large church building. He stood and watched a stone craftsman work a long time on a block but could not see where the block would fit, because the church appeared to be finished. He watched the man work on the block carefully and methodically, slowly shaping it into a precise pattern. Finally, he asked, "Why are you spending so much time chipping and shaping that block?" The craftsman pointed up to the top of the nearly completed steeple and said, "I'm shaping it down here so it will fit in up there." The man in the middle of the trials instantly knew that was God's message to him: He was being prepared down here so that he would fit up in Heaven.

As the old song says: *"This world is not my home, I'm just a passin' through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angels beckon me from Heaven's open door, and I can't feel at home in this world anymore."* **A. P. Carter - I Can't Feel At Home Anymore**

One reason we don't just go on to heaven as soon as we are saved is because the LORD desires to live His life in and through us so that others can see Jesus in us. There is not greater way for others to understand His love than to see and experience it through us. And so, we live by faith here in this world, even though we have not yet seen the destination ahead. As Paul says in **Gal. 2:20** *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.* (NIV)

Dear LORD, thank You that you are still working on me to make me what You want me to be - more like Jesus every day. You are so patient with me. Please shine Your light through me to others today. In Jesus Name, Amen