

# Walking Among Daisies

November 14-15, 2020

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NLT)

13 And now, 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. 14 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. 15 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. 16 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 Christians who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.

**Big Takeaway:** *Coping with the loss of loved ones during, before and after COVID-19 can be hurtful, but along with the hurt, there is hope.*

**Application Point:** *How do I hold on to hope in the face of death?*

## THREE GREAT SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

- 1. Jesus died and rose again, and so will all who have trusted in Him.**
- 2. This isn't wishful thinking, but biblical hope backed up by a risen Savior.**
- 3. There will be a great reunion in the sky.**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:17 (WuestNT)**

17 then as for us who are living and who are left behind, together with them we shall be snatched away forcibly in clouds for a welcome-meeting with the Lord in the lower atmosphere. And thus always shall we be with the Lord.

### **Exodus 19:9**

“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, in order that the people may hear when I speak with you and so trust you ever after’”

### **Psalms 97:2**

“Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne” (97:2).

### **Ezekiel 10:4**

“Then the glory of the Lord rose up ...; the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the glory of the Lord”

### **Nahum 1:3**

“The Lord is slow to anger but great in power ... and the clouds are the dust of his feet” (1:3).

*God Moves in a Mysterious Way:  
Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds ye so much dread  
Are big with mercy, and shall break  
In blessings on your head.*

**- William Cowper, (18th-century poet)**

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (MSG)**

13 And regarding the question, friends, that has come up about what happens to those already dead and buried, we don't want you in the dark any longer. First off, you must not carry on over them like people who have nothing to look forward to, as if the grave were the last word. 14 Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who died in Jesus. 15 And then this: We can tell you with complete confidence—we have the Master's word on it—that when the Master comes again to get us, those of us who are still alive will not get a jump on the dead and leave them behind. In actual fact, they'll be ahead of us. 16 The Master himself will give the command. Archangel thunder! God's trumpet blast! He'll come down from heaven and the dead in Christ will rise—they'll go first. 17 Then the rest of us who are still alive at the time will be caught up with them into the clouds to meet the Master. 18 Oh, we'll be walking on air! And then there will be one huge family reunion with the Master. So reassure one another with these words.

**Big Takeaway:** Coping with the loss of loved ones during, before and after COVID-19 can be hurtful, but along with the hurt, there is hope.

**Application Point:** How do I hold on to hope in the face of death?