

I. Read II Corinthians 5:1-9

- A. In verses 1-4, the Apostle Paul speaks of the tension believers feel as they struggle with the trials and tribulations of this world, looking ahead to life eternal. The very fact that he describes the believer's circumstance in such a manner leads us to the conclusion that we ought to feel somewhat *conflicted* by our life in this world as we look forward to eternity with Christ. If we never feel any such tension, what might our problem be? (read James 4:4-8)
- B. In verse 2, Paul says "we groan" (NKJV) in our present state. What does he mean?
- C. Regarding the *effect* or *influence* of sin, what do we look forward to eternally?
- D. What assurance do we have that one day we will be glorified at the General Resurrection on the last day? (see verse 5)
- E. Do all Christians have the Holy Spirit indwelling them? (read Romans 8:9-11)

There are those who say you must have a subsequent experience to conversion in order to be indwelt with the Holy Spirit. They usually erroneously refer to this as the *Baptism of The Holy Spirit*. They claim that you may have the Spirit *with* you but not *in* you; thus, you may be a Christian yet not be a Spirit-indwelt Christian. What did Paul say about this in Romans 8:9-11?

Does Scripture speak of being Spirit-filled in a *normative* fashion? (*Normative* means it is meant for all Christians.) (see Ephesians 5:18)

In the context of Ephesians 5:18, what does *being filled with the Holy Spirit* mean? (read Eph. 5:8-17)

Note: Please read the article relating Mrs. Johnson's experience (the founder of BSF) with someone insisting that she had not yet been *baptized by the Holy Spirit*.

- F. In verse 6, Paul says to be "at home in the body"...is to be "absent from the Lord." What did he mean by this?
- G. In verse 7, Paul says that "we walk by faith, not by sight." What did he mean?
- H. When do the Words of Scripture regarding our future state with Christ become especially important to us?
- I. Share a point in life (an experience or trial) at which *the hope of glory* of our future state with Christ meant a great deal to you.

Consider the difficulty you may have experienced in trying to be productive and responsible in this life while yet resisting becoming too *worldly* minded. Share briefly about this sort of struggle.

Share about someone that you have known personally, or perhaps just *known of*, whose understanding of life and death, trials and tribulations—even persecution—has meant a great deal to you. (for example, Corrie Ten Boom's description of her family's persecution and suffering at the hands of the Nazis)