



'If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.'

Rom 8:13

Wanted dead and alive

'And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.' Eph 2:1-6

Followers of the way of Christ follow Christ's way of self denial to live for God. The need for self denial tells us that all we were in sin is not yet dead. We are both dead to some extent and also made alive in Christ. *'How shall we who died to sin still live in it?'* (Rom 6:2) So self-denial is the only path to glory.

'And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, this is the one who will save it.' Luke 9:23-24

We cannot have a relationship with God on our own terms, as if we have already arrived and need not concern ourselves with gaining holiness. We can only be in fellowship with God if we have died and are being further made alive by dying some more. Under God's stipulation for Life, we die to self so we can worship Him and so others can live.

'When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions.' Col 2:13

To be truly joined with Christ we must continually deny ourselves and live for Him. All ideas of me, my and mine are to be crucified, for if anyone would save his life he shall lose it.

'Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have

been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.'

Rom 6:3-4

Our life in Christ is about the now and the not yet

'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.'

1 John 3:2

But for now: 'forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.'

Phil 3:13-14

Jesus came that we might be like Him in the not yet. 'For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.'

Rom 8:29

New birth isn't into spiritual maturity. We are not saved so as to be able to sit down and wait for Christ to take us home with nothing to do. We must work out our new life in Christ as God works His miracle in us. Our salvation is absolutely monergistic, it is by God alone, but our growth is synergistic, God and us, as we put off the dead flesh and put on Christ. If we are truly saved we will undertake the process of our holiness with God.

Jesus calls disciples who will follow Him in all obedience and truth to be like Him. These disciples are learning to follow His example and do what He says in exclusion to all else, so they can become like Him.

The proof of the effectiveness of Jesus as our one and only Divine Saviour and Son of God is the growing transformation that takes place in the lives of those who surrender all to follow Him in all obedience and truth. It is not everyone who says to Him, "*Lord, Lord*" and claim Him as their own that show the evidence of His life made alive in them; but only those who have died to self so that they may live in newness of life as His life is made alive in them. It is these who the scripture refers to when it says '*We will be like Him.*'

Consequently acting on what He has commanded means we love Him. The demonstration of real faith and love is seen when we are putting our belief and our commitment to Him into action. Therefore disciples

need to be observant concerning the teaching of our Master, and this means what He taught will become the basis for our life as we put on His life, so that that the power of God works in us so we will be like Him one glorious day.

Becoming a disciple of Jesus means we must lose the life we had in the world to take up a new life in the light of the Kingdom of God. It is not possible to receive Christ and live in His Kingdom if we want to retain our life and live in the world. For he who would save his life will lose it. (Matt 16:25) We cannot have two masters. (Matt 6:24) We cannot have one foot in the Kingdom of God and one in the world so that we are divided in our hearts. What fellowship can light have with darkness? (2 Cor 6:14) What can the flesh add to the Spirit? *“The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing.”* John 6:63

Uncompromising love for Christ requires a whole hearted surrender to God’s love so the Holy Spirit can manifest a transformed life in the heart of the disciple. This new life is only possible when the believer undertakes to embrace its fullness by living completely in Him and for Him.

Good and evil are still now, and our fullness of glory not Yet

When we pray *“Your kingdom come”* there is a sense in which God’s kingdom is already in force. *“At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death.”* (Heb 2:8–9) Jesus' crowning shows us we have a “now” and a “not yet.” Jesus is already the reigning King, but He says His kingdom is not yet of this world. *“My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.”* John 18:36

All who believe and obey God are in Christ as the children of God, but we are not what we shall be. *“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”* 1 John 3:2

We are children of the King, but we must wait to see exactly what that means. *‘And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these*

whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.'
Rom 8:30

Our glory is not yet complete. *'For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.'*
2 Cor 4:17-18

In a spiritual sense, we are already raised up with Him on His throne, (Eph 2:6) but we are still here, we still suffer from the effects of sin and for sin. Here we don't always behave in a glorified way, and our world doesn't look like heaven; but we have already received every blessing in Him; and one day they will be complete in Him. One day we will actually be seated with Him. *"He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."*
Rev3:21

Therefore, it is not helpful to imply what is not clear in the Bible. Christ's kingdom is not in full operation at this time. People will continue to get sick, and the poor will always be with us, (Matt 26:11) because the riches of the completeness of the kingdom are not fully available now; and the evil one still has dominion on earth. 1 John 5:19

The kingdom of God is slowly working toward its triumph. One day, when Jesus returns, He will establish His kingdom on a new earth. Until then, Jesus is building His church according to the knowledge of God, *"I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."* (Matt 16:18) Meanwhile, Hades is still working to disrupt the work of the Lord, but evil will not succeed amongst the elect in preventing His glory.

The new age of the kingdom has already begun for those who believe and obey Christ. *'For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.'* (Col 1:13) We have begun a new life in Christ. Since we are made new people according to His image, we must grow in Him, *'you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him.'*
Col 3:9-10

It is obvious that being renewed is a process we must all be committed to finishing.

The first coming of Christ is to be followed by a second coming. *"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also."* John 14:3

The kingdom of God was established when Jesus rose again, but it has not come to its final completion on earth. The full coming of the kingdom includes Christ's second coming, the general resurrection, the Day of Judgment, and the new heaven and the new earth. The new creation, including our resurrected bodies, is the goal of God's activity in the history of the redemption of all things. *'He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him.'* Eph 1:9-10

This means that when we see horrors in the world, we can always be assured our God is still in control, and His history is moving forward to His intended goal, in His timing. At this time we will struggle, and at the same time the whole created order is in tension between the now and the not yet. *'For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.'* Rom 8:19-22

While we grow in Christ, and we move towards His completion in the world, the kingdom of evil also continues to do its work. Satan's kingdom will exist and grow as long as God's kingdom grows. This is clear in the parable of the wheat and the weeds. *'Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."'* Matt 13:27-30

While Satan wages war God is still in control. *'We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.'* Rom 8:28

While we have been raised with Him, our life is to be increasingly patterned after the cross and the example of Jesus. (Phil 2:5-8) This life of the cross is a life of self denial and suffering; (Rom 8:17) it is not always triumphant, it is not yet the celebration of the Lamb's banquet, but humble and obedient process of spiritual growth. While we do have personal potential for victory over our sinful inclinations by the Spirit, (Gal 5:16) it doesn't mean we will be without sin. 1 John 1:8

The New Testament message to us is about denying self and putting on the Christ life, regardless of the circumstances to be face, or the suffering to be endured. God our Father did not spare His only Son in suffering for our sake, and He will not spare us the suffering we must have in Christ for His glory, and ours.

For those who look only to the now, the focus is with our physical life, and about making this life more enjoyable by avoiding suffering, and improving the quality of our daily circumstances. Having a worldly perspective is a trap for those who want all the benefits of the atonement to apply now, which the Bible makes clear it doesn't. The Bible therefore clearly tells us not to love the world or the things of the world. 1 John 2:15

The faithful who look to the not yet, look longingly to another home not of this world. The first group is mainly concerned with our existence in this world, looking for the power of God to make this life more comfortable without suffering. The others look to the power of God to gain the Christ life by overcoming the world as they follow His example and endure suffering with Him. In the Bible we are taught to be content where God has placed us in this world, and to be thankful in all things. We are told God uses all our circumstances, the good and bad, for our good in transforming us into the likeness of His Son. Should we forsake following Christ' example, and therefore deny Him the fellowship of His suffering, just so we can have a more comfortable and enjoyable existence in this world?

When the Lord returns, the first earth will pass away, along with its curse. Jesus will wipe away every tear, and there will no longer be any death, so there will be no mourning or crying or pain, these first things will pass away. Jesus will make all things new, for He is faithful and true. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

We are called on to have faith in Christ even as we suffer as we battle the forces of darkness. We are called to persevere for the joy set before us. *"He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."* Rev 3:5

And we cannot follow Him in living the spirit life without laying aside our life in the flesh. We cannot know His truth if we keep our own. We cannot receive His eternal life if we hold fast to our earthly life. *'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6) The way of Jesus is the cross; our cross is our only key to heavens door.

Under the providence of God, God's eternal plan for us, at just the right time, Jesus emptied Himself of all His majestic rights to come and live as created man was supposed to live for God as His chosen image and representative on earth. He came to live in a world of spiritual darkness as the light of the knowledge of God, so that we might be delivered from the darkness and follow Him into the light of the kingdom of God. He came as a man who was completely dependent on the Spirit of God for all guidance and ability to live as the Son of God. *'For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you would follow in His steps.'*

1 Pet 2:21

In our death with Christ, death to self is the way to life with Christ, so we can live His life for others. Our death to self removes the obstacles that blind others to the need to die in order to live God's way as His chosen children.

Jesus shows us that on this earth, the only way we can be of eternal value for good, is to die to our natural inclinations to sin that we inherited from Adam, so others may live life with the new Adam, Jesus Christ. If we are willing to follow Him in death we will never die but have eternal life, because we will be born again by the Spirit of God in the image of Christ. The self we are to sacrifice is the refuse left over from our life according to the image of sinful Adam.

We cannot live with God and entertain any idea of accommodating the ways of Adam's sinful flesh because we have been born of the Spirit in the image of Christ.

Romans chapter 8 explains this way of life in the Spirit for all those who have been moved by God to deny themselves to follow the way of Jesus Christ. Jesus came to suffer innocently for the sins of His chosen people, who still live in darkness so that they can be justified by faith in Him and be able to fulfil the law of God as to how man should live in the kingdom of God.

The Bible tells us in Romans chapters 1 to 4 about the spiritual condition of man is darkness. Romans chapter 5 tells us of the salvation that is only possible in Christ. Romans chapter 6 reveals to us that life with Christ begins with death with Christ. Romans 7:14-25 speaks of the futility of trying to keep the law of God by the weakness of human ability. Romans chapter 8 teaches us about how the dead according to the flesh are now made alive by the Spirit to walk in fellowship with Christ as they are enabled to fulfil the law of God from a pure heart. Romans 8 gives us every reason to trust in God's sovereign will that we will be forever secure in Christ, even to the end of the age.

We are alive from the dead, but the dead body still lingers

'If by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.'

Rom 8:13

Being made alive in Christ means we are a new creation in Christ to kill off the flesh. To be alive is to be reborn according to the divine nature of God in fellowship with Christ Jesus because we have been crucified with Him. Life is a new heart, a new spirit.

2 Cor 5:17

Being made alive in His image means we have being raised up with Christ to live with God as Father. New life is the result of receiving the Spirit of God. Being alive means being led by the Spirit. It means having a new mindset that seeks to fulfil the ways of the Spirit of God. Being led by the Spirit means our desires will be what the Spirit desires concerning the kingdom of God. Being alive requires the killing off of the old mind set by the power of the Spirit. New life is possible in offering ourselves as a living sacrifice in service to God. New life means we will suffer with Christ so we can be glorified with Christ. His suffering is our example of how to bow in humility to the will of the Father.

When Christ died to the world, all those in Him also died to the world so that His love would control the lives of those who no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

The life of those who follow Christ has ultimately been decided in Christ. We need to examine ourselves to see how our life is consistent with a new beginning. How is the separation from the world to live for Christ working? How much of the dead still lingers?

Are we making progress in overcoming spiritual death?

Is it Self or God that motivates us? How are the scales of justice looking in our lives?

Are we controlling or controlled; Fleshly or spiritual; Worldly or heavenly; Isolation or in God's community; Maintaining self protection or protected by God; Limited or expansive; Excluding or inclusive; Fearful or faithful; Looking down or up; Demanding or submitting; Deceived or devoted; Self justifying or silent; Indifferent or loving; Apprehensive or secure; Anxious or joyful; Defensive or yielding; Impatient or patient; Closed or open; Hiding or transparent; Dead or alive; Unkind or kind; In darkness or light; Lost or found; Distressed or delivered; Grasping or giving; Dictating or supporting; Choosing or chosen; Doubting or trusting; Complaining or rejoicing; In gloom or glory; Judgemental or forgiving; Served or serving; Keeping or sacrificing; Intolerant or long-suffering; Impatient or content; Vocal in defence or silent before God.

Every one of the above comparisons has a tipping point which is the cross of Christ or the world. The level of our holiness will be determined by how much self is still tipping us away from the control of God. When we take up our cross we fulfil the law of Christ. *'For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting, but to himself alone, and not to another.'*

Gal 6:3-4

Have we come to understand that our greatest enemy is not out there in the world, but our self? *'But far be it from me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'*

Gal 6:14

The Devil cannot make us sin, he can only tempt us to do his will to tip the scales in his favour. Our self is the perpetrator that leads us into sin by deceiving us into thinking we are as before according to the flesh, to please ourselves. We control the tipping point of the flesh or the cross, whether we take control or die to self and accept God is always in control. *'If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.'* Rom 8:10

While we say we are on the lookout for Satan as we guard our house, our self is undermining our foundation in Christ. Because we have not crucified all the fleshly ways filed away in our minds, the last thing we want to do is to be about the business of killing off self.

We mostly neglect honest self examination, so the Holy Spirit organises our day so that people and events cause us to automatically reveal our tipping point, so we have no excuse if we are at all committed to growing in holiness.

We like to think of ourselves as being mature in Christ, so we are blind and deaf when we complain about the traffic or our husbands and wives or even our pastor and elders. And in doing this we refuse to accept there is no such thing as a little sin. If we break one Law, we have broken the Law, all the Law.

We even exalt ourselves and our achievement as if we have achieved great things, forgetting that we live entirely by the grace of God who works all things for His glory. Whatever good we claim as our own has come to us as a gift from God so no one can boast.

We need to pay attention to our words, for our words that have come from our heart and have broken the Law of love, show that we have not dealt with the flesh in a way that satisfies God, and these words will condemn us one day. Besides, the more we love Jesus, the more zealous we will be about pleasing Him by putting on His life. And the only way to put on Christ is to put self to death.

Therefore, if God is to be our Sovereign Lord who we obey in all things, we must earnestly put to death all that is of the flesh in us by daily sacrifice, so that our minds can be transformed into the mind of Christ. Salvation in Christ is God's way, or we walk the low way. We either live under the control of God or we are living as those who are still dead in sin.

The person who is not condemned by the Law of God has chosen their tipping point in Christ, they are the ones who have died to self in Christ in all things; they alone can say: *"I no longer live for Christ now lives in me."* (Gal 2:20) And they can be confident Christlikeness is not just a distant possibility that will always remain out of reach. They are very familiar with God's word for the repentant heart. *'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'* 1 John 1:9

It has been said that when we claim the blood of Christ we hold to a butcher shop theology. And this has some truth, for we are those who follow the Lamb that was slain, and we are in the business of butchering our self concerning the flesh life if Christ is to live in us. Following Christ means that if our eye causes us to sin, we pluck it out. If our hand causes us to sin, we cut it off. Are we alive from the dead and finishing the job? Be your own butcher and take the sword of the Spirit and cut off the dead parts with all diligence.

How concerned are we for the inner life of Christ?

A brother in Christ once wrote: *"Learn to turn from worldly things and devote yourself to spiritual things, and you will see the Kingdom of God come within you. For the Kingdom of God is peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*

"Christ will come to you and will offer you His consolations, if you prepare a place for Him in your heart."

"So come faithful soul, and prepare your heart for your divine spouse that He may be willing to come and dwell with you. For He says, 'Those who love Me will keep My Word; and My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them.'"

"So welcome Christ and forbid entry to others. When Christ is with you, you are very rich, and He will take care of you in every way, so that you will not need to depend on others."

"Never put your complete trust and reliance in frail and mortal people, however helpful and valuable they may be to you. Put your complete trust in the Lord, direct your reverence and love to Him alone. You will never have peace unless you are inwardly united with Christ. Let all

your thoughts be with the Most High and focus your humble praying on Christ without ceasing.”

“Christ was willing to suffer and to be despised. So why do you complain? Christ had enemies and slanderers; do you expect everyone to be your friends and benefactors? How will your patience be rewarded if you are not willing to endure suffering? If you wish to reign with Christ, you will have to suffer with Christ and for Christ.”

“Those who walk by inner insight, and are not unduly influenced by outward things, need no special time or place for prayer. Those with an inner life easily find recollection, since they are never totally involved in outward affairs. Those with a well-ordered and focused inner life are not disturbed by the strange and perverse ways of others.”

“Because we are not fully dead to ourselves, nor detached from all worldly things, we are often confused and offended. Nothing defiles and entraps us more than a selfish love of material things. If you rejected all outward comfort you would be able to contemplate heavenly things and experience greater inner happiness.” Thomas à Kempis 1380 – 1471

Those who are now alive live life with Christ in crucifying the flesh

‘If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.’

Rom 8:10

The Holy Spirit gives the spiritual life of Christ to those He has chosen to live for Him. If we know a lot about Him, but we haven't given up all control into His hands, we are still a fringe dweller; and we still don't love Him more than life.

We can't have all the spiritual blessings of God if God doesn't have all of us. Until our claim to faith is all or nothing in Christ, it is nothing. If the Spirit dwells in us, He rules over us. If He is not controlling our life we are not in Christ.

‘However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.’

Rom 8:9

Christians Walk according to the authority of the Spirit, with the mind set on obeying the Spirit. The contaminated refuse of Adam's corrupted DNA might be scattered throughout our minds, and want to employ our bodies to fulfil its desires, but we will not allow it to be dominant, so

we will refuse to give it a place to live in us, because we are now in Christ and Christ is in us.

'For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are in accord with the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.'

Rom 8:5-8

'For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'

Rom 8:14

If we have the Spirit of Christ leading us in the way of God we belong to Christ as His brethren who will follow His example of suffering for truth. *'The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.'*

Rom 8:16-17

Being Alive to God is a process even to the glory to come. Life in Christ is to love Him intimately and increasingly live His life for Him by the leading of the indwelling Spirit of God. It is only by the love of Christ controlling us by the Spirit that our every desire will be to please Christ by doing everything He taught and commanded concerning loving God and His chosen family.

Hear the voice of the Spirit of Christ tell us He will get us to glory. *'And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.'*

Rom 8:28-30

Who is a Christian being made alive from the dead?

It is those who are led by the Spirit to carry out the purposes of God. And His purpose is that that we fulfil the law written in our hearts, through fixing our minds on the leading of the Spirit, as we carry out the purposes of God, in order that we are transformed into His image.

The Christian life is summed up in the following passages: *'For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that One died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.'* 2 Cor 5:14-15

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:38

If we are in Christ, He has us under His control. If not, we are still living as the dead who have no understanding.

God will reward us according to our level of devotion to Christ

The rewards we will receive in the administration of the new heaven and earth community will be consistent with the work we have done here in putting on Christ by doing away with the flesh of self. Each person's work will have its own rewards. Those who have being more faithful in working out their salvation in consort with the Father will experience a greater satisfaction and recognition than those who have not applied themselves to work out the Father's business in earth.

'For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, each one's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work. If anyone's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward.' 1 Cor 3:11-14

"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to reward each one as his work deserves." Rev 22:12

Be your own butcher under the hand of God and enter the Kingdom of God legless. It is better to attend to the destruction of self now, rather than to enter heaven stunted, having been prevented from growing or developing properly through laziness.

Living Water Resources

Come to the River

WANTED

DEAD and ALIVE

Be your own butcher under the hand of God and enter the Kingdom of God legless. It is better to attend to the destruction of self now, rather than to enter heaven stunted, having been prevented from growing or developing properly through laziness.

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