

# ALAN TAYLOR MINISTRIES

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## You Are Not Broken

Death is proof that the natural man will come to an end. Over the years I've been sitting in different funerals as the minister shares about eternity, the friends and family sit in the pews mostly dressed in dark cloths, as a symbol of mourning their lost loved one. Some try to share the good times so that they can make the best of that moment, while others cry; some can't say a word in fear that they might open up the gates of their emotions.

For us believers, death is a graduation to a better place, an eternity of no more fear and no more pain, only joy. It's a reality of this world that each of us will one day shed this body that we are wearing and yet the Joy of spending eternity with God as our Father will overtake any sorrow. One of the most comforting words to say at a funeral is "this person is not here, this is just their body, they are at home with Jesus now." The simple realization that death in this world does not mean you stop existing, but only that you stepped out of your natural body. You live forever and as a Christian you will live forever with Him!

2 Corinthians 5:1-4 says, "*For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.*"

In the End of it all, when it is all finished, the children of God will be completely transformed into a complete child of God, with absolutely nothing from Adam left in us, including a whole new body. The movies and folklore have given many people the impression that when a person passes they float around forever as a mist, a formless ghost type, like a cloud, but scripture tells us different. The body that you were born in will not always be your body.

At the sound of the trumpet something amazing will happen to us believers, and in a twinkling of an eye we will receive an eternal body that will belong to us for the rest of all eternity. This body will be perfect, flawless, holy and immortal. Death will be conquered once and for all. "*Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*" 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, also tells us that we are new creatures in Christ the moment we accept Christ as our savior. We are born the first time of the family of Adam, but we are born the second time, or "born again", with God as our Father. Most believers don't grasp the power of that statement; they try to become a better person instead of walking in the NEW person they have already become. Salvation is not an evolution from who we were, it is a resurrection from the dead. The person you were died, and you were raised back up in newness of life.

Yes, you still wear the flesh of that old man but inside of that flesh you actually are a completely new creation and «SALUTATION», you don't need to wait for heaven to start walking in this new life. Many of us came to Christ as broken people carrying a lifetime of insecurities and mistakes and instead of rejecting us He welcomed us with open arms into His Family. It was soon after that we discovered salvation didn't destroy our

flesh, and we still had areas of our life to overcome. This is the one point that many keep trying to fix, their outward man, instead of focusing on who they actually became, that new creature. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Death of this body is proof that God's plan for His children is not to spend years polishing a broken body that He will throw away anyways. Why would He ask us to spend effort fixing what is going to be replaced. You and I are new creatures, and even though we are responsible for what we allow this flesh to do, our job is not to repair it and its brokenness. Instead, we build upon the new inner man. We are to make the brokenness of the flesh submit to the death it will face as we step out off it. You don't start from broken! Most believers spend their entire life trying to fix and improve their flesh; instead of focusing on the inner man they wake up every day feeling overwhelmed by what they are facing, and they go to bed each night feeling as if they failed God and didn't do enough.

I encouraged a young Christian man one day who was battling with perversion. He said that his dad molested him as a child, and now years later he was tormented with unhealthy thoughts. Looking at his struggle, it seemed as if he was facing a mountain that was impossible, but we know that's not true. He was looking at his battle as a job of fixing and repairing his natural man, which in his case was a big job. If he compared his broken flesh with other people, it would seem unfair that he had so much more to fix than others do. I told him to stop trying to fix a dead body, instead of trying to live out of his new man.

You don't start as broken, you start as a new creature. From this new creature, you have all you need to begin to stop living after the old flesh. I shared with him that when he accepted Jesus as his savior that in that moment his earthly dad stopped being his dad, and now because he is a new creature in Christ he has a new Father! A Heavenly Father who is perfect in love and who will never hurt him. I reminded him that no mountain was too big, and to not give up on overcoming. It helped him just to know that he was not his struggles; he was just a Child of God having to make a broken flesh submit to death. I would remind you too that you are already complete and whole in Christ; that is who you are now, this moment. I will remind you that you are not broken; you may be wearing a flesh that is broken and full of struggles, but that's not you anymore - the *real* you started at perfect, and builds from there.

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