

Hello! This is Dorothy -

There are some very exciting verses right at the end of **1 Corinthians 15**. It starts at **verse 51** and goes on through **verse 58**.

51 Take notice! - *boy, when the Word of God says **take notice**, you better take notice and I better take notice - I tell you a mystery (a secret truth, an event decreed by the hidden purpose or counsel of God). We shall not all fall asleep [in death], but we shall all be changed (transformed).*

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the [sound of the] last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound , and the dead [in Christ] will be raised imperishable (free and immune from decay), and we shall be changed (transformed).

53 For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us, this nature that is capable of dying] must put on immortality (freedom from death).

54 And when this perishable puts on the imperishable and this that was capable of dying puts on freedom from death, then shall be fulfilled the Scripture that says, - in Isaiah 25:8 - Death is swallowed up (utterly vanquished forever) in and unto victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

In **Hosea 13**, it says -

14 I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction. . .

Back to **1 Corinthians 15** -

56 Now sin is the sting of death, and sin exercises its power [upon the soul] through [the abuse of] the Law.

57 But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ. How do you feel about your life today? Do you feel down and defeated? Do you think, “Well, here I am. Yes, I know I am saved, but I don’t know — it is not doing very much. I am very earth-bound here.” Oh, may you today understand it is just for a passing second, as it were, that we are on this planet. It is only for this brief time before the work and purposes of God are accomplished in and through us. It is all about Him and what His resurrection plan is for all eternity. He is doing that work in and through us that forever will make a position of what He will do in and through us in eternity.

You know, my mother loved that little verse of ***the victory***. Do you have victory today? I remember we put it in the little programme of the service that we had when my mother went to Heaven. It was her favorite verse. My brother, too. When he went to Heaven, we put this on his very tombstone, because there is hope beyond the grave. What

about you? Perhaps you have disease; perhaps you have been raped; perhaps you have been abused; perhaps people have beaten you up; perhaps they have taken everything from you. I am hearing reports of some dreadful fires going on in one part of the world. People are losing everything, but if they have Christ, they have lost nothing! Everything we have is in Christ. For it goes on to say -

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be firm (steadfast), immovable,- do n't budge - whatever circumstance happens about you, don't budge -but I love this: - always abounding in the work of the Lord [always being superior, excelling, doing more than enough in the service of the Lord] . . . How many of us can say, "All right! I have lived this full day and I have been doing all this and, after all, you do not realize what I am doing." My hours are God's hours. I do not have my time or say, "Well, that is His service." I cannot separate it. Twenty-four hours a day belong to the indwelling Christ. . . .

Therefore . . . doing more than enough. . . Thinking of those in nations that need my prayer; seeking to bring the Word of God to those who have no Word; bringing those into Christ who are lost and bound in sin and hopelessness. That is what it is -**doing more than enough in the service of the Lord . . . knowing and being continually aware that your labor in the Lord is not futile [it is never wasted or to no purpose].**

That is the Word of God speaking to your heart. Why? It tells us in

1 Thessalonians 4 —

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

May you today say, *I do believe Jesus died. I do believe Jesus rose. I am ready to face death, because I will come with Him.* You could be in the crowd or down here when it happens.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent - *go before* - them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Are you comforted today? Oh, glorious day! Jesus is coming! Be ready for Him!

In His precious Name. Amen.

