

# GLORY

## 3. Steadfast & Immovable













Are you investing  
your life in things  
that will last?









## Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new  
heaven and a new  
earth, for the first  
heaven and the first  
earth had passed  
away, and the sea  
was no more.





## Romans 8:20-24

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole





## Romans 8:20-24

creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.





## Revelation 11:15

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”





# 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.





**natural**  
**(physical)**  
**body**

**spiritual**  
**(nonphysical)**  
**body**



**natural**  
**(physical)**  
**body**  
***psychikos***

**spiritual**  
**(nonphysical)**  
**body**  
***pneumatikos***



**natural**

**(physical)**

**body**

***psychikos***

**spiritual**

**(nonphysical)**

**body**

***pneumatikos***

the power that animates the object





**wooden**



**iron**



***-ikos***



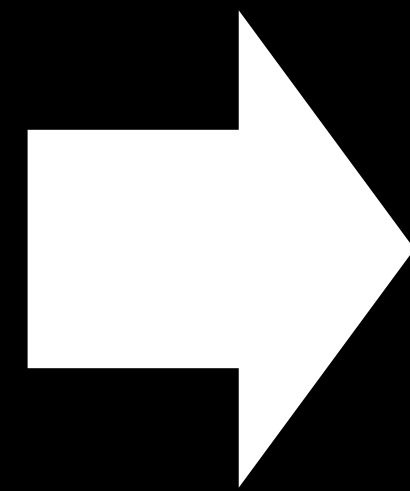
**sail**



**steam**



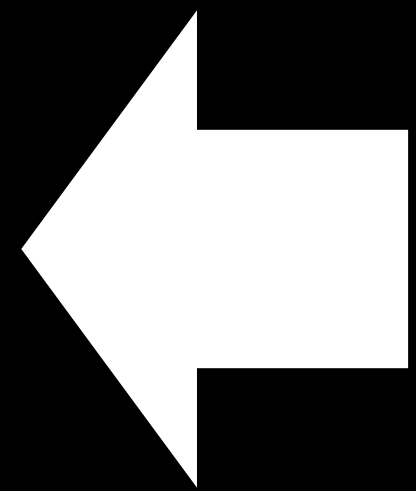
**natural**  
**(physical)**  
**body**  
*psychikos*



is powered by the  
life force in our  
present bodies  
which is  
powerless against  
illness, injury,  
decay and death.



energized by  
God's spirit  
and therefore  
incorruptible,  
undecaying,  
never to die  
again



**spiritual**  
**(nonphysical)**  
**body**

***pneumatikos***



# 1 Corinthians 15:50

I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.





# 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

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





# 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.









# 1 Corinthians 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord **your labor is not in vain.**





# Continuity in Our Growth Toward Spiritual Maturity





# Dallas Willard

What God gets out of our lives—and, indeed, what we get out of our lives—is simply the person we become. It is God's intention that we should grow into the kind of person he could empower to do what we want to do. Then we are ready to “reign for ever and ever.”





# Romans 8:28-29

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.







# The Cosmic Car Wash





Gary Black, Jr

Thus, the assumption goes, we begin eternity, from the very moment we “open our eyes” or “wake up” in heaven as shiny, new spiritual beings, utterly whole, lacking in nothing, in a state as if our sin and its effects have left no impact on our lives or perhaps never existed at all. Such a belief system drains much, if not most, of





Gary Black, Jr

the motivation away from engaging in the difficult, slow, and patient process of spiritual transformation and character development while on earth. Instead, all the cosmic car wash requires is for us to hang on by our fingernails, keeping hold of our systems of “sin management” until we die, and the car wash will take care of the rest.



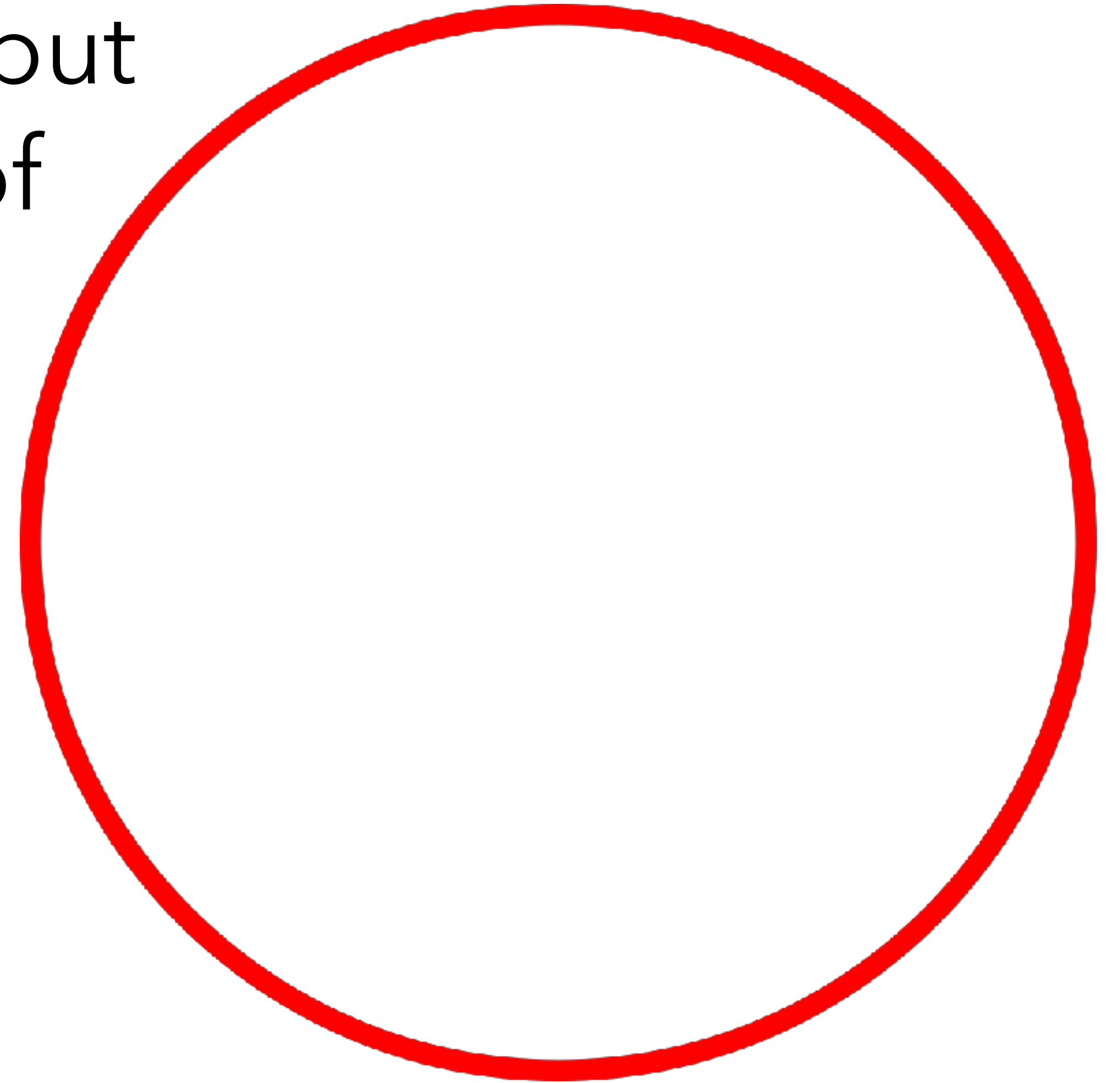
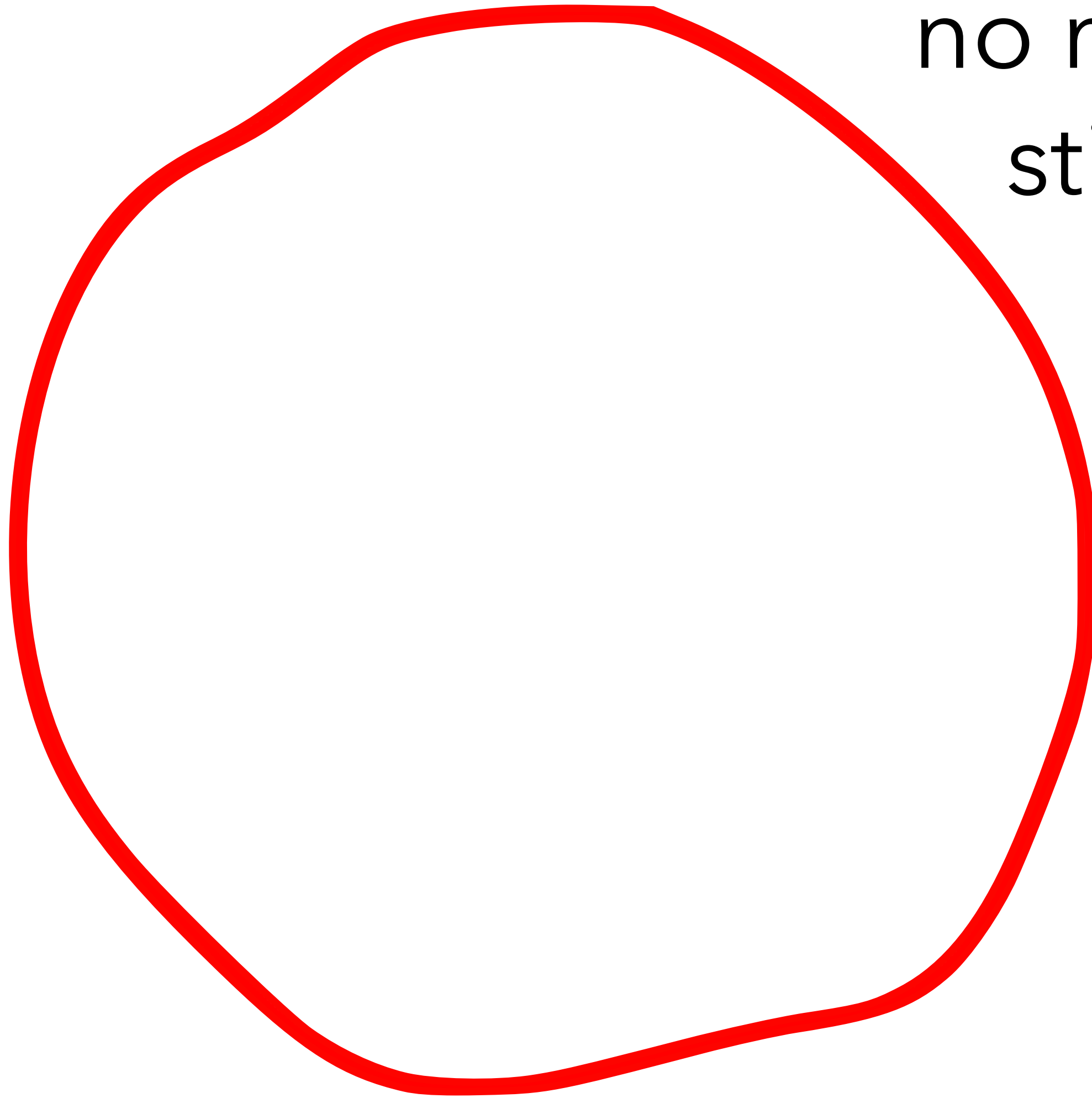
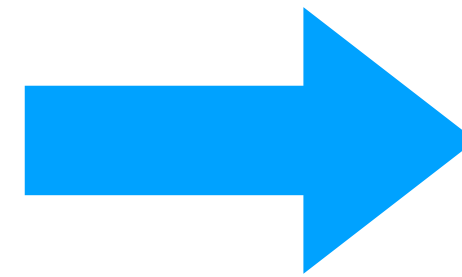


areas still  
controlled  
by sin

**present life**



no more sin but  
still areas of  
growth



**resurrection life**



# 1 Timothy 4:7-8

... train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.





# Continuity in Our Kingdom Work for the Lord





# Revelation 5:9-10

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, **and they will reign on the earth.**”





Matthew 6:10

your kingdom come, your will be  
done, on earth as it is in heaven.





# Isaiah 49:6

he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."









# N.T. Wright

How does believing in the future resurrection lead to getting on with the work in the present? Quite straightforwardly. The point of the resurrection, as Paul has been arguing throughout the letter, is that the *present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die*. God will raise it to new life. What you do with your body in the present matters because God





# N.T. Wright

has a great future in store for it. And if this applies to ethics, as in 1 Corinthians 6, it certainly also applies to the various vocations to which God's people are called. What you *do* in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving





# N.T. Wright

your neighbor as yourself—*will last into God's future*. These activities are not simply ways of making the present life a little less beastly, a little more bearable, until the day when we leave it behind altogether. They are part of what we may call *building for God's kingdom*.









## Skye Jethani

Unlike the teddy bears and flowers, many of the gifts we received were very practical. We did not cook a meal for two months. Food arrived at our door every day from friends at church, and sometimes from strangers who'd heard about our need. Others cared for our older daughter so we could spend more time at the hospital. Anonymous checks came to assist with medical bills, and some came with notes explaining that God had placed it



## Skye Jethani

upon their hearts to help. In our scarcity these generous gifts were glimpses of abundance.

Through these people and many others who faithfully engaged their callings, God was helping me see the garden within the wilderness. He was showing me that my hope could withstand the reality of this fallen and fearsome world, and that he was at work making [Heaven] a reality even in the darkness of those days.



# N.T. Wright

... what you do in the Lord is *not in vain*. You are not oiling the wheels of a machine that's about to roll over a cliff. You are not restoring a great painting that's shortly going to be thrown on the fire. You are not planting roses in a garden that's about to be dug up for a building site. You are—strange though it may seem, almost as hard to believe as the resurrection itself—accomplishing something that will become in due





# N.T. Wright

course part of God's new world. Every act of love, gratitude, and kindness; every work of art or music inspired by the love of God and delight in the beauty of his creation; every minute spent teaching a severely handicapped child to read or to walk; every act of care and nurture, of comfort and support, for one's fellow human beings and for that matter one's fellow nonhuman creatures; and of course every prayer,





# N.T. Wright

all Spirit-led teaching, every deed that spreads the gospel, builds up the church, embraces and embodies holiness rather than corruption, and makes the name of Jesus honored in the world—all of this will find its way, through the resurrecting power of God, into the new creation that God will one day make. That is the logic of the mission of God. God's recreation of his wonderful world, which began with the resurrection of Jesus and





# N.T. Wright

continues mysteriously as God's people live in the risen Christ and in the power of his Spirit, means that what we do in Christ and by the Spirit in the present is not wasted. It will last all the way into God's new world. In fact, it will be enhanced there.





