

Title: Driven by eternity II – No fear
Speaker: André Kruger
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Hebrews 9:27 (ESV) ²⁷ *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment..*

We have one life. One opportunity.

C.S. Lewis observed, *"If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."*

Positioned in a place of victory or failure?

Colossians 3:1–2 (ESV) ¹ *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.* ² *Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*

- *"Aim at heaven and receive heaven and earth. Aim at earth and receive neither."* What are you aiming at?

The valley of fear – of the shadow of death

Psalms 23:1–3 (ESV) ¹ *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.* ² *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.* ³ *He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

- **Our guarantee:** we will have tribulation.. in this life. This is not heaven.

Psalms 23:4 (ESV) ⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

- In the shadow of death fear flourishes, that is where fear operates. The fear of death is the root of all fears..

Fear defined

- (1) Fear is bondage or slavery
- (2) Fear changes our perspective to the earthly
- (3) Fear blinds us
- (4) One's heart can become sick with fear... spiritual senses blinded.
- (5) Fear is a lie.

Biggest obstacle to being heavenly minded? Fear of evil. Fear of failure. Fear of death.

Fear of evil – Christ has destroyed the devil's hold over us

Hebrews 2:14–15 (ESV) ¹⁴ *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,* ¹⁵ *and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

- Lifelong slavery. Fear of evil. Fear of death. It binds us.
- Through Christ's death + resurrection, evil has been overcome.
- **The root of fear is the fear of death.**

Psalms 34:4 *I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

Fear of failure

The valley of failure is a graveyard for many, but the birthplace of the mighty

***It says: “you are the problem.” Our response:** *“if at first you don’t succeed, destroy all evidence that you’ve tried.”*

- **Failure** – *we hide it, deny it, fear it, ignore it and hate it.*

Graveyard: Many a man and woman have made their grave in the valley of failure.

Psalm 23:4–6 (ESV) ⁴ *Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.* ⁵ *You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.* ⁶ *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.*

“When we give ourselves permission to fail, *we at the same time give ourselves permission to excel.”*

***Failure speaks loudly to us, but the word of God speaks even louder **God’s Word empowers us to become heavenly minded. It lifts us up out of the valley of fear... God’s Word impacts our hearts!**

Fear of death

Faith in heaven will cause us to become fearless.

Revelation 20:14–15 (ESV) ¹⁴ *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.* ¹⁵ *And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Revelation 21:1–5 (ESV) 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.* ² *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.* ³ *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.* ⁴ *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”* ⁵ *And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

- Upgraded earth.
- Death shall be no more!!

1 Corinthians 15:54–55, 57–58 (ESV) ⁵⁴ *When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”* ⁵⁵ *“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”* ⁵⁷ *But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* 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.*

- Death is swallowed up in victory.