

## How the Trajectory of the Christian Impacts His Outlook on COVID 19

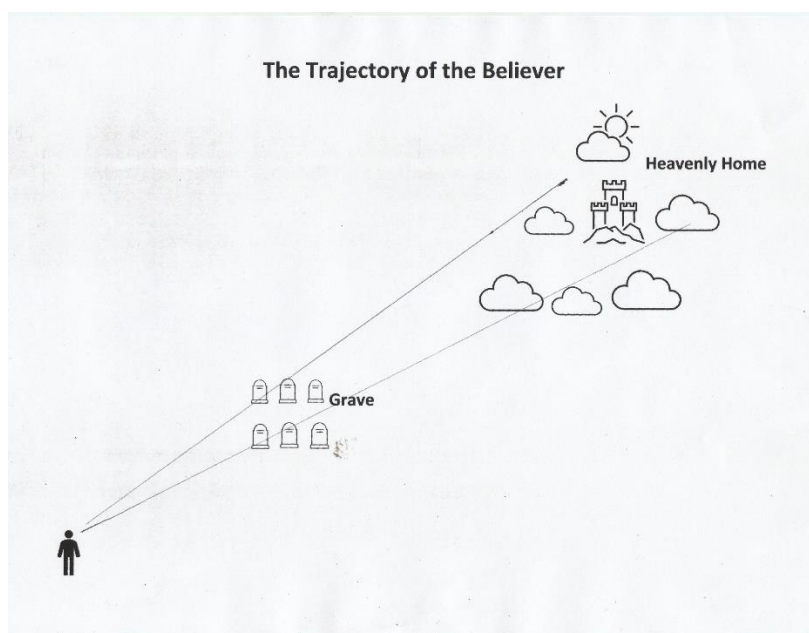
The Christian perceives the threat of COVID 19 in a way that is completely different from the unbeliever. Perhaps you have noticed that some people seem petrified about the threat of COVID 19. Perhaps you have seen them wearing a mask while walking alone outside or driving in their car alone. Of course, such people may have simply forgotten that their mask is on because they are so accustomed to wearing it. Maybe they are not actually petrified about the threat of COVID 19. But there are some people who are paralyzed with fear over this pandemic even though, statistically, far less than 1% of the people who contract it die from it. Hebrews 2:14-15 helps us understand why so many unbelievers are so afraid of COVID 19.<sup>1</sup> It tells us that Satan has the power of death over them and as a result, they are subject to bondage because of their fear of death.

The Christian is not impacted this way (assuming he actually believes the gospel). God has promised that all who truly believe into Christ will live with Him forever in a heavenly home. (See Hebrews 11:10 – 16.) We confess that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth which is temporary. The trajectory of our life is aimed at our eternal home where Jesus dwells. Because of this, we agree with Paul<sup>2</sup> that it would be better if we died right now because that would mean we would instantly arrive at our new eternal home with Jesus.

The illustration below depicts the trajectory of the Christian. Notice his final destination is a heavenly abode. But also notice that this trajectory also includes his death. To arrive at our heavenly destination, we must pass through death first.

Jesus said, *“Truly, truly I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falls into the soil and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it bears much fruit. The one who loves his life will lose it. And the one who hates his life in this world will keep it into everlasting Life. If anyone should serve Me, let him follow Me. And where I AM, there also My servant shall be. And if anyone serves Me, My Father will honor him”* (John 12:24-26). Jesus promised to raise us up and give us a glorified body. But just as a seed must first be planted in the soil and die, so we must die and be buried before we will be resurrected by Jesus. He commanded us to follow Him not only through life, but also through death.

Because of all this, the Christian does not fear COVID 19 because God is sovereign over it. And if God so chooses to arrange for it to take our life, it will simply be God’s final stepping stone for us on the way to our heavenly home.



<sup>1</sup> Some unbelievers are not that afraid of COVID 19 but they do fear death.

<sup>2</sup> "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:21-23).