

# Comfort at the Believer's Time of Death

Charles Spurgeon On the Death of a Believer

*"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." -- John 17:24*

O death! why dost thou touch the tree beneath whose spreading branches weariness hath rest? Why dost thou snatch away the excellent of the earth, in whom is all our delight? If thou must use thine axe, use it upon the trees which yield no fruit; thou mightest be thanked then. But why wilt thou fell the goodly cedars of Lebanon? O stay thine axe, and spare the righteous. But no, it must not be; death smites the goodliest of our friends; the most generous, the most prayerful, the most holy, the most devoted must die. And why? It is through Jesus' prevailing prayer-- "Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." It is *that* which bears them on eagle's wings to heaven. Every time a believer mounts from this earth to paradise, it is an answer to Christ's prayer. Many times Jesus and His people pull against one another in prayer. You bend your knee in prayer and say 'Father, I will that Thy saints be with me where I am'; Christ says, 'Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.' Thus the disciple is at cross-purposes with his Lord. The soul cannot be in both places: the beloved one cannot be with Christ and with you too. Now, which pleader shall win the day? If you had your choice; if the King should step from His throne, and say, "Here are two supplicants praying in opposition to one another, which shall be answered?" Oh! I am sure, though it were agony, you would start from your feet, and say, "Jesus, not my will, but Thine be done." You would give up your prayer for your loved one's life, if you could realize the thoughts that Christ is praying in the opposite direction--"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." Lord, Thou shalt have them. By faith we let them go.

"WE ARE ABSENT FROM THE LORD."

If heaven is our fatherland, what is this earth but a place of exile, and this life but a journey through a strange land? If leaving this world means the entrance into real life, what else is this world but a grave? What else is dwelling on this sinful earth, but being plunged into death? If deliverance from the body means completed liberty, what is this body but a prison? If to enjoy the presence of God is the peak of happiness, is it not misery to be without it? For until we escape out of this world, "We are absent from the Lord."

John Calvin