

Chapter Six: Frailty of Life

It is a hot summer day in the town of Barstow, California. Doug's new job for the military had moved him here and the family was doing well, but Samantha didn't seem as happy. Laevius watches Samantha, who is now seven years old; she is sitting on their back porch reading a comic book and holding an ice cream cone that is melting all over her hand. Mom comes walking out of the door to find that half of her ice cream has melted and formed a small puddle at Samantha's feet. "For goodness sakes Samantha you have to watch what you're doing!" Samantha stops reading and looks at what her mother is talking about. She did not realize that this was happening as she read. "I'm sorry mama, I didn't feel anything drip!" she says with surprise in her voice. "Now Samantha, how could you not feel the cold running down your hand?" says Amber as she goes to get a wash cloth. Amber wipes Samantha and starts to ask her a few questions; "Now Samantha, could you really not feel the ice cream drip down your hand? Did you not feel the cold?" Samantha looks at her mom and says, "I didn't feel a thing mom, I was just reading and before I knew it you were here." Amber thought this very odd but she had started to notice that Samantha was not so focused on her surroundings as she used to be. "Well, it's okay honey, but try to be more aware next time, okay?" "Okay mom" Samantha replies with a smile then goes back to reading her comic book. Laevius watches and in his heart he feels a little disturbed by what he just saw. Samantha didn't look as lively as she looked about six months ago when he last stopped by to see her. As he looks around the yard it just seemed so deserted as if she had not moved a thing from the last time. It looks like no one has been over to play with her. This was understandable being that where they had moved to lack the children for Samantha to play with. Amber had started to home school Samantha because of this, but something had changed in Samantha and Laevius did not like this feeling in his heart. "Laevius, it is time" speaks a voice from air, "you must move quickly, the Master calls for him." "I am coming, replies Laevius as he glances one last time at Samantha before he leaves.

The atmosphere changes as Laevius finds himself in the hospital wing at the Saint Francis Hospice Center. He walks through the corridor to get to Mr. Henry Bunt, but as he passes an elderly woman in the hall who is sitting in her wheelchair she speaks out to him. "Have you come for him?" Laevius stops to look at her, "have you come for him?" asks the woman one more time as she now stares at Laevius. To his surprise she is very aware of him, not many people in the world can see the spirit of death when he enters to receive let alone talk to them; it is usually at death that all see and hear, but this woman was alive and talking right at him. "You can see me?" speaks Laevius; "Yes I can" replies the woman. Laevius knows that only God can allow one in the living to see his workers, "then yes, I have come for him." The woman smiles as she turns away from him, "thank you" she speaks. Laevius continues on to the room that holds Mr. Bunt, and when he enters there is Henry sitting up on his bed next to his lifeless body. "Hello, I have been waiting for you" says

Henry with a smile. “Come, He waits for you” speaks Laevieus as he starts to turn to walk into the realm of eternal destiny. Henry follows along, very quietly with his head bowed and hands clinched together. In the living Henry was a minister of the gospel of Christ, he spent many years abroad teaching about Jesus Christ and the kingdom of heaven. On one of his last visits to the Amazon he became very sick and had to be rushed back. They found that he had contracted Malaria and could not be cured. The day that he entered hospice was the same night he passed away. Henry continued to walk behind Laevieus, humbly and quietly; there was no questioning between him and Henry, just a silence as the light appears in the distance with a figure standing in the doorway. Laevieus realizes what is about to happen and stops walking with Henry. “You must continue on your own” speaks Laevieus as he steps aside to reveal the light ahead of them. Henry takes one look at Laevieus, smiles, and then continues on as Laevieus watches. Henry gets closer to the light when the figure within speaks; “Henry”, Henry looks up and replies; “Yes Lord, I am here.” “Henry it is I, Jesus Christ, and I have been waiting a long time for you, I wanted to come and see you in personally” Henry starts to cry softly as he speaks, “I am sorry I kept you waiting Lord, but I could not help it.” Jesus smiles at Henry and stretches out His arms, “Oh Henry, you have no need to apologize, for your time spent away from Me was time spent in Me. You have done a wonderful work for so many who had never known you; you showed them a greater way of life that is more precious than gold. You have done well for My kingdom and are worthy of all that is within! Come into your everlasting rest and share with Me the glory of life.” Henry starts to walk quickly and without stopping he falls into the arms of Jesus Christ sobbing with joy as the angels surround them with cheers and songs. Laevieus is moved by what he just saw and slowly turns away to not cry. And as he walks away and enters into the realm of the living, the warmth in his heart continues to glow. “Wasn’t that the best thing Laevieus? Isn’t it wonderful!” speaks the voice. “Yes, very wonderful indeed!” Laevieus starts to reflect on Samantha and within hopes that she will be received just as Henry was. For he knows that the greatest reward is seeing the Lord at the door to greet you and he wanted Samantha to have the best entry that heaven could offer to mankind. “Laevieus, the battle rages for this one! Go quickly and be ready!” Laevieus understands completely and without a thought turns and disappears to enter into a fight between heavenly angels and hell’s demons. They are all surrounding a young man who holds a gun to his head.

“Just do it, do it now!” whispers the voice of a demon into the ear of Brian Tong, he is eighteen years old and a high school senior who just a couple of days ago lost his mother to her drugs addiction. She was all he had left; when he was sixteen his Father had passed away losing his battle with cancer; his mother never recovered from this and fell into a deep depression which caused her to become addicted to her medication. When that stopped working and the doctors would not give her a stronger dose, she turned to street drugs to drown her misery. Brian could not handle all that had happened to his family, burdened by the loneliness and despair he felt that life wasn’t worth the pain. So Brian took what was left of his mother’s drugs and pulled out his father’s old revolver. He was mentally distraught and emotionally broken; to him there was no other way to get relief from such misery. “You are

better than this!” speaks a voice near to Brian; “life is worth living!” Brian starts to shake as the gun quivers in his hand, but the voice that is closer to his ear speaks loudly; “Life is not worth living without your parents! You’re all alone; no one to love you, no one cares about you!” Suddenly a voice speaks; “Carol” Brian’s mood changes; “Carol loves you” Brian starts to look up as if remembering a lost friend. Carol and Brian had been friends since they were in diapers, she was a year older but they always spent time together. She was now away at college and it would be a few months before she returned home. She understood what it is was like to lose a parent, for she had lost her mother in a car accident when she was twelve years old and though for a while she would cry a lot, she became strong and maybe a little better because of it. “Carol” Brian speaks her name as he remembers; “Carol isn’t here, Carol is far away from you, she wanted to leave you, remember?” speaks the voice close to his ear. “Carol” Brian speaks as slowly the gun starts to descend to his lap. “Carol, I miss you so much!” he speaks as tears stream down his face. Suddenly the phone rings, Brian is too weak to stand and lets the answering machine pick up. “Hello Brian?” says the voice that causes him to look towards it; “It is me Carol, I just read in the paper about your mother! I am so sorry I am not there right now, but Brian I am coming home! I want to see you! Brian, I should be there in a couple of hours, please be home! I love you!” then the phone goes dead. As tears stream down Brian’s face the demons of hell move away as God’s angels step forth to protect this one lost soul. “Laevious it is over, he will not be leaving this day.” speaks the angel before him. Laevious turns and walks away. “What a sight that was, the battle for a man’s possessed soul, God’s grace is strong upon this one!” thinks Laevious as he enters into the streets of the living.

As night falls upon the world of the living Laevious thinks of Samantha and decides to check in on her. Four months had gone by since he last saw her and left with a feeling that something was not right. He turns to enter into her home to find that no one is there. He can see that dinner is on the table, but no one is eating and the house is quite and still. “Something is wrong, this is not right.” Thinks Laevious as he turns to look for something of Samantha’s. He sees her sweater that she laid over a chair in the kitchen, so he touches it to find her soul upon the earth. And to his surprise he can feel that Samantha is at the hospital, and all is not well for her. Laevious quickly turns and enters through the walls of the Barstow Military Hospital, moving through the corridors he finally finds Samantha; Amber and Doug are standing beside her bed. “We have her on a respiratory and antibiotics, we are going to run a few test to find out what caused Samantha to faint. But first we must get this fever down before anything gets worse.” Amber and Doug are in control of their emotions, but not so Laevious, he is beside himself at this site. Such worry enters his heart for this little girl; he starts to know how Amber and Doug must be feeling. “This is unbearable! How do humans handle such suffering in their hearts?” Laevious thinks as he holds a hand to his chest; “this hurts on so many levels!” The doctor leaves the room to collect the necessary documents for Samantha’s treatment while Amber and Doug come in closer to their little child. Amber takes Samantha by the hand and starts to talk with her; “honey, I hope you can hear mommy! Everything is going to be alright sweetie; the nice doctors are going to give you medicine to

make you feel better. Mommy is here honey, I won't be going anywhere!" "Hey honey, daddies here also!" chimes in Doug; "Now you be strong okay, the doctors will have to run some test to make sure you are well enough to go home. I will be right here with mommy to watch over you. Now, my brave little girl; be strong!" And as Doug stops talking Laevius feels the pain of reality. He is not able to help her or to interfere in what may happen, but yet he wants to. He knows that he has the power to help this little one, but heavenly law dictates against it. Only He is able to allow healing, only He has a say in the world of the living! Laevius has never felt so helpless before and the question of God's judgment rises up inside of him. "Lord, how can this be just? She is so small and innocent to suffer like this! But I understand that You know all things, so will You allow this one to be healed? Will You look upon this one this day? I ask not for myself but for her." And as Laevius watches the doctor returns with a staff of nurses to give Samantha what she may need to help bring down her fever.